BATMAN
NO MAN'S LAND
GOTHAM CITY
VOLUME ONE
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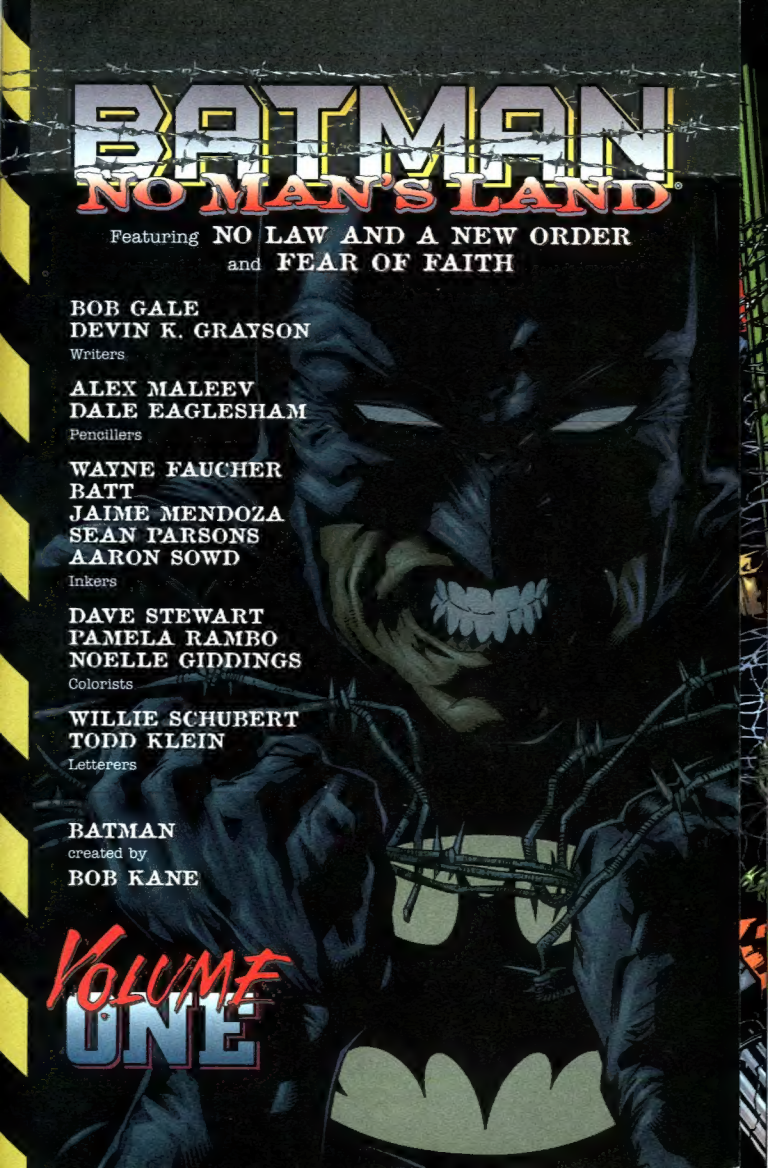
BATMAN
NO MAN'S LAND
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and FEAR OF FAITH
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BATMAN: NO MAN'S LAND
Volume One

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No one ever said Life in Gotham City was Idyllic.

Of course, no one thought it could get any WORSE... not even its Dark Knight defender.

First there was the contagion: the Ebola Gulf A filovirus morbidly dubbed "The Clench," which killed hundreds of thousands of Gothamites before a cure was found by the Batman and his allies.

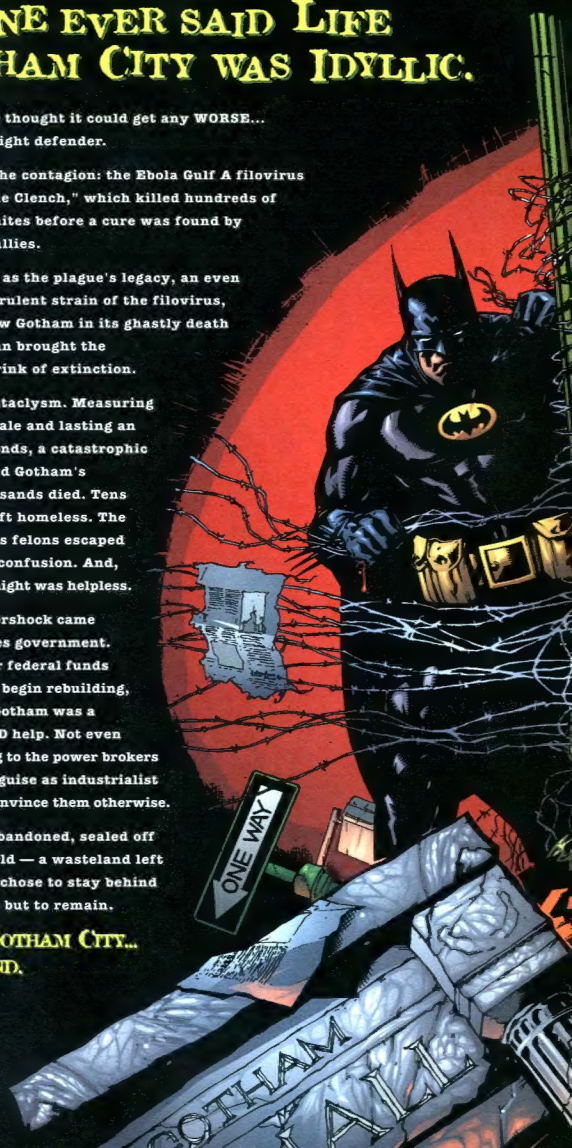
Scores more died as the plague's legacy, an even deadlier and more virulent strain of the filovirus, threatened to swallow Gotham in its ghastly death throes. Again, Batman brought the city back from the brink of extinction.

Then came the cataclysm. Measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale and lasting an interminable 20 seconds, a catastrophic earthquake decimated Gotham's infrastructure. Thousands died. Tens of thousands were left homeless. The city's most dangerous felons escaped incarceration in the confusion. And, this time, the Dark Knight was helpless.

The harshest aftershock came from the United States government. As the city waited for federal funds and disaster relief to begin rebuilding, Congress ruled that Gotham was a disaster area BEYOND help. Not even the Batman, appealing to the power brokers of Washington in his guise as industrialist Bruce Wayne, could convince them otherwise.

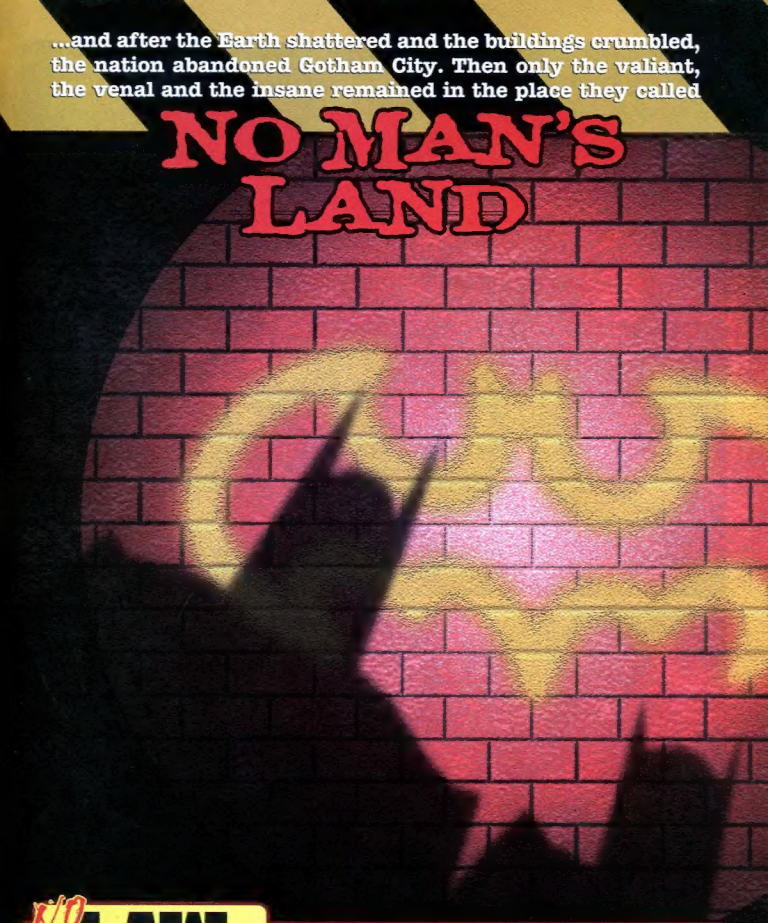
So the city was abandoned, sealed off from the outside world — a wasteland left for those who either chose to stay behind or who had no choice but to remain.

Welcome to Gotham City... No Man's Land.



...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND



NO LAW AND ORDER A NEW

part one: VALUES

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GOTHAM CITY
CITY LIMITS
NO TRESPASSING
YOU ARE
NOW LEAVING THE
UNITED STATES
CARS $5
BY FEDERAL AUTHORITY
THIS AREA HAS BEEN DECLARED
OFF LIMITS
Hell
Welcomes to
GOTHAM CITY

H&A
WHAT DO YOU REALLY FIGURE THE GOVERNMENT'S GOT IN MIND WITH THIS?
SHUT THE PLACE DOWN FOR A FEW YEARS, BULLDOZE IT, TURN IT INTO... I DUNNO, A PARKING LOT.
I FIGURE THEY GOT NO PLAN. IT WAS THE CHEAPEST SOLUTION. SHUT IT DOWN, CUT IT OFF. NO FEDERAL AID, NO STATE AID, NO DISASTER RELIEF.
SAVES TAX DOLLARS.
TAX DOLLARS, HELL. IT WAS ALL A PLOT BY THE BIG INSURANCE COMPANIES NOT TO HAVE TO PAY ANY CLAIMS AFTER THE QUAKE.

GO HOME.
THIS IS HUMANITARIAN AID! CANNED GOODS! MEDICINE! BATTERIES!
NOTHING GOES IN, NOTHING COMES OUT. THAT'S THE LAW.
BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE STILL IN THERE!
AND IF THEY HAD ANY BRAINS THEY'D HAVE GOTTEN OUT WHEN EVERYBODY ELSE DID. THEY HAD THEIR CHANCE.
WHEN A FEW MILLION FOLKS PACK UP AND BLOW OUT WHY WOULD ANYBODY STAY BEHIND?
WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN IT POSSIBLY MAKE TO YOU IF I WANT TO THROW SOME SUPPLIES OVER THE WALL?
PERSONALLY? NONE. BUT WHEN I'M WEARING THIS UNIFORM MY PERSONAL OPINION MEANS ZIP.
NOW BE A GOOD MAN OF GOD AND TURN AROUND. PLENTY OF GOTHAM REFUGEES ON THE OUTSIDE CAN USE THAT AID.

Copter Tours of the Gotham Perimeter
$50/person
WE'RE APPROACHING THE PERIMETER. GET YOUR CAMERA READY.
LOWER AND CLOSER.
YOU CRAZY! IT'S RESTRICTED AIRSPACE!
EZ
100 BUCKS! GET ME CLOSE ENOUGH TO THROW THIS FOOD IN!
THEN PULL BACK SO I CAN GET VIDEO OF GUYS KILLING EACH OTHER FOR IT!
300 BUCKS!
DEAL!
YOU ARE IN RESTRICTED AIRSPACE! LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY OR YOU WILL BE FIRED UPON!
FORGET THAT DEAL!
HANG ON!

COOKIES

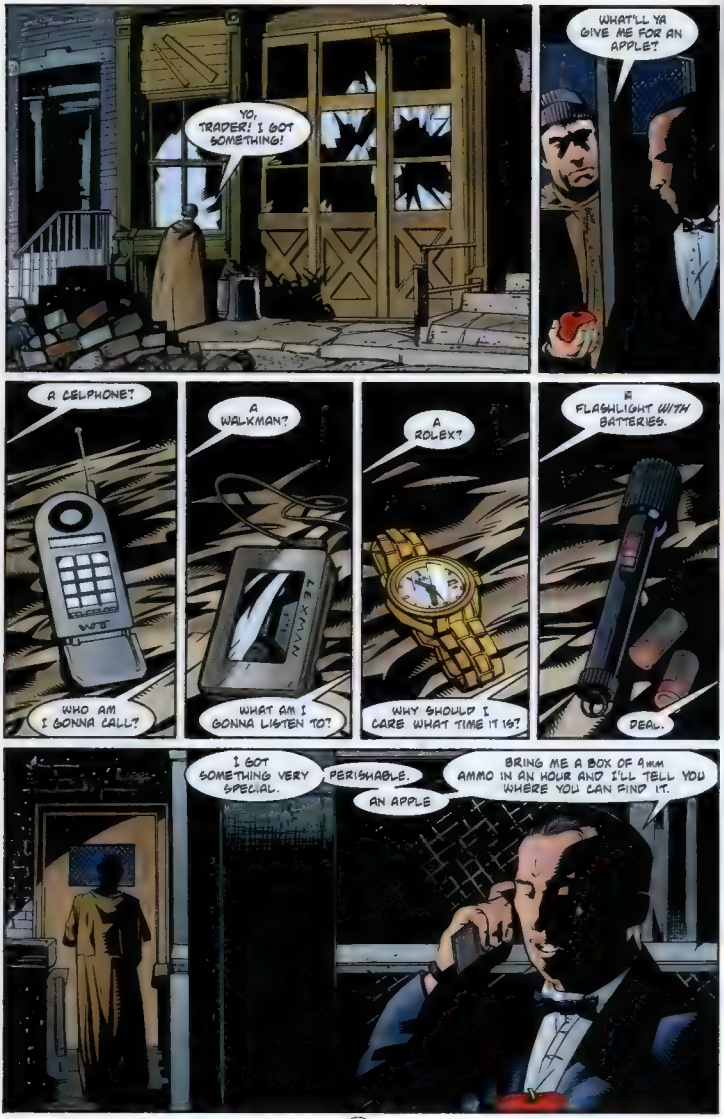
YOU BETTER HOPE THAT BALL DOESN'T HAVE THE NAME "RAMON" WRITTEN ON IT.
THAT'S HIM! HE TOOK MY SANDWICH!
NO! IT'S MINE! HE ATTACKED ME FOR IT!
RAMON

I'M WARNIN' YA, DON'T MESS WITH ME. I GOT FRIENDS IN THE HOOK STREET GANG. AND THIS IS THEIR TURF.
THAT WAS LAST WEEK.
IT'S OURS NOW.
AND RAMON LIVES HERE. UNDER OUR PROTECTION.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? WE'RE COPS. WE PUNISH THIEVES.
HA! YOU GONNA LOCK ME IN JAIL? THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO FEED ME.
NO JAILS. INSTEAD WE GOT JUDGE "PUNISHMENT" PARKER. ENFORCES LAW THE OLD FASHIONED WAY--THIEVES GET THEIR HANDS CHOPPED OFF.
NO!
GIVE US THE BIKE. AND YOUR COAT. AND STAY THE HELL OUT OF TRICORNER. TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME.
OKAY! I'M GONE!
YOU GUYS WANT PART OF MY SANDWICH?
IT'S YOURS. FINDERS KEEPERS. THAT'S THE LAW AROUND HERE. AT LEAST FOR NOW.
ONE OF THESE DAYS WE OUGHTA GET OURSELVES A JUDGE PARKER...

LORD S. DON'T LIKE VISITORS.

I WANT THOSE COOKIES!
NO, LORD SCARFACE, WE CAN'T TAKE HIS COOKIES-- THAT'S STEALING. STEALING IS WRONG!
YEAH, YEAH, HE'S RIGHT, STEALING'S WRONG!
THEY'RE MY COOKIES, KID! YOU STOLE 'EM FROM ME!
NO, I DIDN'T! I STOLE 'EM FROM--I MEAN I, uh, FOUND 'EM! YEAH, THAT'S IT! I FOUND 'EM LAYING ON, uh, A FIRE ESCAPE!
YOU FOUND 'EM, eh? JUST LYING ON A FIRE ESCAPE?
THAT'S RIGHT! I SWEAR!
WELL, DAT'S EXACTLY WHERE I LEFT 'EM! THIEF!
NOW, FEED ME ONE OF MY COOKIES!
NOT THAT ONE, YOU FOOL, IT'S GOT GLOOD ON IT!
SORRY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE TEAMED IN WITH A TOTAL NUTCASE
HEY, HE'S GOT THE BULLETS

WAIT--
DON'T EAT IT! I'LL TRADE YOU FOR IT!
WHAT'LL YOU TRADE?
SOAP!
I'D RATHER BE DIRTY THAN HUNGRY.
BEANS. I GOT CANNED BEANS.
HOW MANY?
THREE.
MAKE IT SIX?
THREE BEANS, TWO SOUPS.
DEAL.


YO, TRADER! I GOT SOMETHING!
WHAT'LL YA GIVE ME FOR AN APPLE?
A CELPHONE?
WHO AM I GONNA CALL?
A WALKMAN?
LEXMAN
WHAT AM I GONNA LISTEN TO?
A ROLEX?
WHY SHOULD I CARE WHAT TIME IT IS?
A FLASHLIGHT WITH BATTERIES.
DEAL.
I GOT SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL.
PERISHABLE.
AN APPLE
BRING ME A BOX OF 9mm AMMO IN AN HOUR AND I'LL TELL YOU WHERE YOU CAN FIND IT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM IN ORDER TO PERFORM AN AUCTION FOR A VERY RARE ITEM, THE LIKE OF WHICH HASN'T BEEN SEEN AROUND HERE IN TWO MONTHS.
A PIECE OF FRESH FRUIT.
DARE I SAY THE CLASSIC FORBIDDEN FRUIT.
REMEMBER THE TASTE?
REMEMBER THE MARVELOUS SENSATION OF BITING INTO IT?
THE CRUNCH?
THE JUICE?
THE AROMA?
WHAT AM I BID?
FIVE GALLONS OF GASOLINE!
TEN GALLONS OF GAS!
MY GIRL FOR A NIGHT!
A CASE OF BUTANE LIGHTERS!
A FUR COAT!
THIS...!
A 20 CARAT DIAMOND.
SOLD!
I DON'T GET IT. WHAT'S A DIAMOND WORTH?
TO US? NOTHING. BUT I HEAR PENGUINS GOT A SECRET PIPELINE TO THE OUTSIDE.
CLAIM YOUR PRIZE, SIR.
CRUNCH
REMEMBER, THE PENGUIN ALWAYS TAKES HIS BITE.

Day 93 of No Man's Land

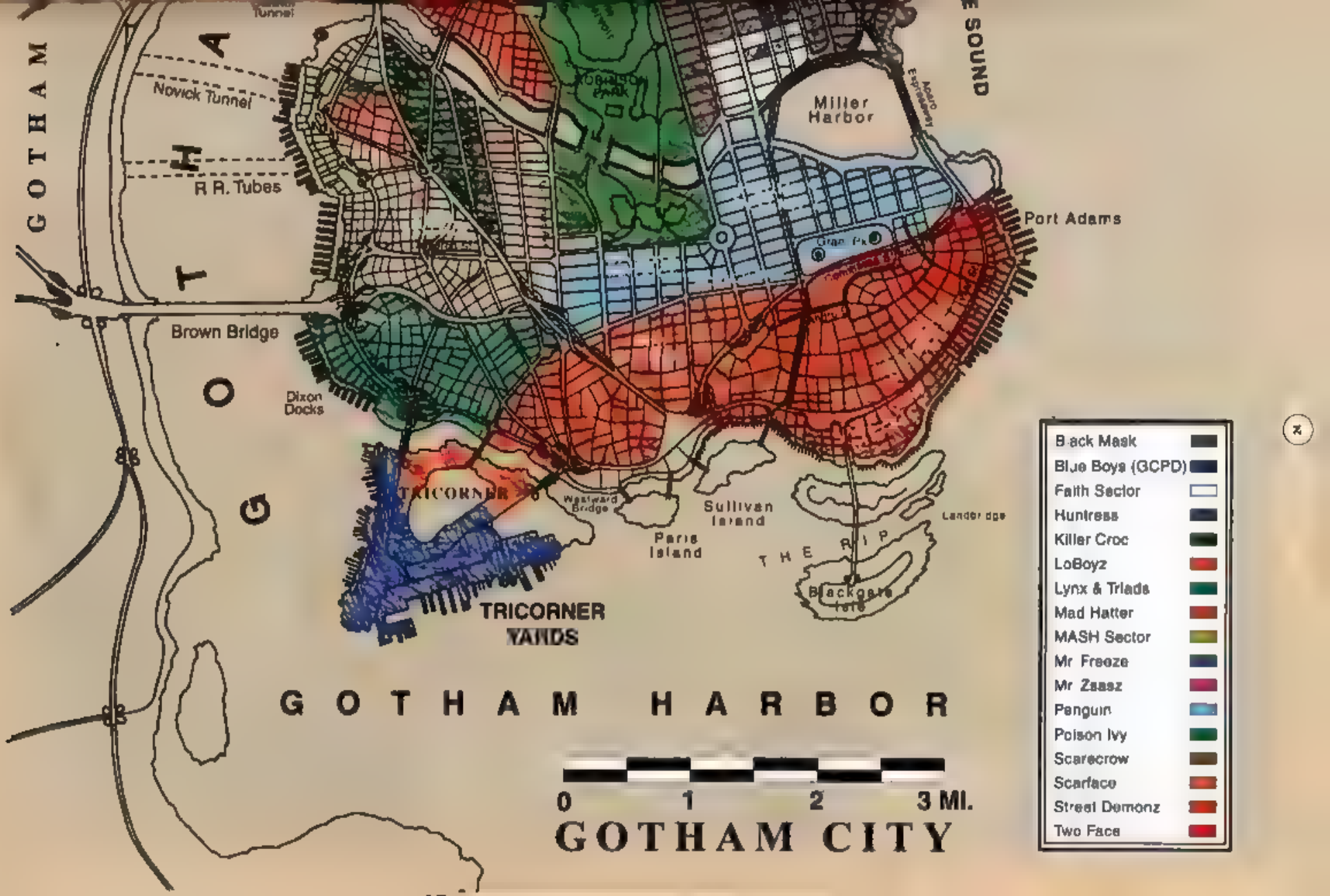
Gotham is still dead.

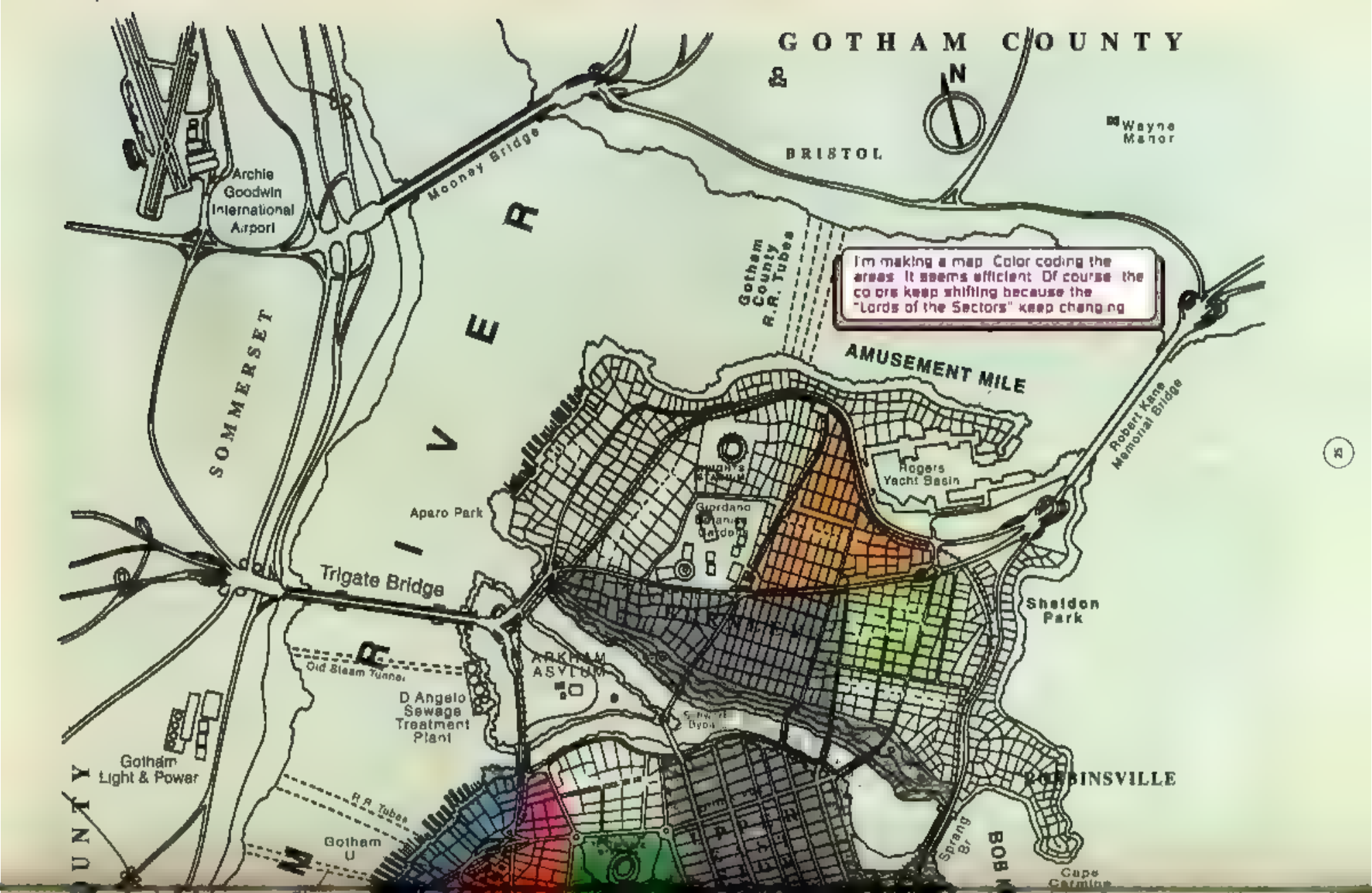
Here in No Man's Land, The Area Formerly Known As Gotham, the Universe has gotten smaller. For most of them who stayed, it goes no farther than they can see. Mine's a little bigger. It always has been. I was lucky. I was also prepared.
My building—being a Wayne property—was quakeproof.
And after The Plague, I had stashed a ton of supplies. Food. Water. Medicine. Batteries.
I'm big on batteries. Thank God and Wayne Tech for rechargeable solar nicads. I can stay wired, even though nobody else is.
Yes, I thought about leaving with everyone else. Seriously. But there was this nagging sense of duty...I must have gotten it from my father. Duty...and ego.
Information. What could be more important in such a crisis? Having it. Getting it. Sharing it.
I'm good at this. Better than anybody. Besides, I didn't know how to do anything else.
Maps of the city.
Knowledge of various underground supply stashes...
Locations of the old fallout shelters...
...with their stocks.

I traded information for sustenance
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE THERE'S A STASH OF THE ARMY'S FREEZE-DRIED FOOD IF YOU PROMISE TO BRING ME SOME.
SURE!
JUST DON'T EAT ANY OF IT UNTIL YOU COME BACK HERE WITH SOME--
THE ARMY PUT POISON IN IT IN CASE IT FELL INTO THE ENEMY'S HANDS. ONLY I KNOW HOW TO NEUTRALIZE IT.
I've had good luck using agents.
SPRINKLE A BIT OF THIS POWDER ON THE FOOD BEFORE YOU EAT IT AND YOU WON'T GET SICK.
It's just MSG. There is no poison, but if they knew that, they might not come back

I traded information for more information. I recruited operatives. I developed a network
Did you know that there are three dozen phone terminals with two-year batteries all over Gotham?
GEMCON
GEMCON— the Gotham Emergency Communication Network.
Fifteen of 'em still work.
And I just happen to have a tap right here. Another little wiring job I had done after the Contagion Crisis. Not so hard when you can hack into the phone company computer and write up a work order.
Paranoia—it's a good thing.
So my operatives go to the nearest phone and tell me what's going on
Information Central. I provide information. And I record it. I'm no longer simply Oracle. I'm also The Chronicler.
There needs to be a record of these events. Whatever happens, whether this place survives or collapses, history will want to know the facts. The details. The stories
93 days in No Man's Land. t
area formerly known as Gott
Feudalism is alive and wel
here. The neighborhood
Sectors. Controlled
Tribes. Tagged. To
big thing. It's
Sometimes I do it the old way—pen and paper. Because here paper is more durable than silicon.

Feudalism is alive and well here...
ARKHAM
...helped along by Jeremiah Arkham's decision to let all the criminals in his asylum back on the streets before he left town.
The neighborhoods. Sectors. Controlled by gangs. Tribes.
BRADLEY INC
Tagged
Tagging is a big thing.
And critical in No Man's Land
It's primal
All animals mark their territory.


GOTHAM
Novick Tunnel
R.R. Tubes
Brown Bridge
Dixon Docks
Miller Harbor
Port Adams
SOUND
TRICORNER
Westward Bridge
Sullivan Island
Paris Island
THE RIP
Landridge
Blackgate Isle
TRICORNER YARDS
GOTHAM HARBOR
0 1 2 3 MI.
GOTHAM CITY
N
Black Mask
Blue Boys (GCPD)
Faith Sector
Huntress
Killer Croc
LoBoyz
Lynx & Triads
Mad Hatter
MASH Sector
Mr Freeze
Mr Zsasz
Penguin
Poison Ivy
Scarecrow
Scarface
Street Demonz
Two Face


GOTHAM COUNTY
&
N
Wayne Manor
BRISTOL
Archie Goodwin International Airport
Mooney Bridge
SOMMERSET
RIVER
Gotham County R.R. Tubes
I'm making a map. Color coding the areas. It seems efficient. Of course the colors keep shifting because the "Lords of the Sectors" keep changing
AMUSEMENT MILE
Robert Kane Memorial Bridge
Rogers Yacht Basin
Aparo Park
Trigate Bridge
Sheldon Park
Old Steam Tunnel
ARKHAM ASYLUM
D'Angelo Sewage Treatment Plant
Gotham Light & Power
R.R. Tubes
Gotham U
ROBINSVILLE
Sprang St.
Cape Carmine

Blue is GCPD. Tricorner. That's where Dad is. I've sent him word that I'm okay. I hope he believes it.
The Street Demonz are operating here.
They're too busy holding off the LoBoys to the south to have done much damage.
The question is, for how long?
Two-Face is operating out of the Downtown Courthouse.
Killer Croc is a nomad, fighting whomever he finds.

Black Mask and his False Facers have taken over the Fashion District.

After playing such a major role in the troubles around the Quake, the Ventriloquist, with a patched-up Scarface, has an iron grip on Newtown.

Ivy seems to have taken up in Robinson Park.
That's just a rumor, since no one who's gone in has ever come out of the Park.

The Huntress is maintaining her brand of order in her East Side neighborhood.

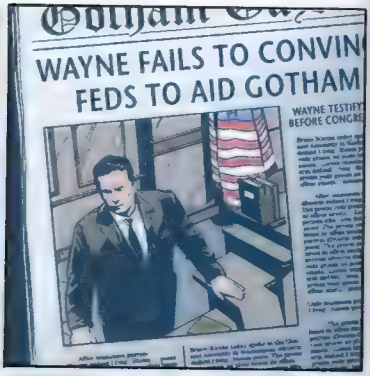
The Joker's whereabouts are currently unknown.
Penguin is the only one who isn't insane.
He's turned his sector into Casablanca. The ultimate black market. A haven for those who pay the price. He's got the goods...and the hoods.
Rumor is he's got some sort of pipeline for stuff from the outside. Is it by water? Underground? Haven't been able to find out.
Obviously, in a world where a box of matches is more valuable than a camera, and a bike is more useful than a Ferrari, an entrepreneur like Penguin is going to thrive.

And the people: why did they stay?
Some had no choice. The poor..
The destitute..
The illegal immigrants...
The criminals.
Some saw it as a great adventure.
Or as a unique opportunity.
PROPERT
Others had their own take on reality.
WELCOME MOTHER SHIP!
YOUR LANDING SITE IS READY!
Mankind returns to their roots. Hunters.
and gatherers
Shopping carts and backpacks have become highly valuable accessories.
After all, you have to put what you hunt and gather SOMEWHERE.

High tech gives way to Low tech...and No tech.
SPEARS FOR TRADE
Automatic weapons are useless when there's no way to get ammo.
The Dwellers. Having space means having to protect that space.
GO AWAY. THIS IS MINE. I WAS HERE FIRST AND I CONTROL IT.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO TO SLEEP? WHO'S GONNA CONTROL IT THEN?
Technology and civilization are reinvented to solve these sorts of problems
YOU NEED PROTECTION, eh? GIMME A ROOF OVER MY HEAD, I'LL HELP YOU PROTECT IT.

The weak turn to the strong for survival. And the tribes develop reasons why others can join them.
I'M A MECHANIC. I CAN FIX THINGS.
FIX THIS BIKE, AND YOU CAN STAY.
I'M A SEAMSTRESS. I CAN SEW.
SHE CAN STAY.
WELL, uh, I'M A SOCIAL WORKER. I HELP FACILITATE INTERACTION IN HOSTILE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS.
I, uh, HELP PEOPLE WHO DON'T GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER TO COMMUNICATE BETTER.
YEAH! WE NEED THAT!
98ST. GANG TURF. KEEP OUT! THIS MEANS YOU

And what of Gotham's leading citizen, Bruce Wayne? After being humiliated and insulted before Congress, he disappeared.
FEDS TO AID GOTH


WAYNE FAILS TO CONVIN
FEDS TO AID GOTHAM
WAYNE TESTIFY
BEFORE CONGRE

Ironic that his properties were quakeproofed, but his home was not. The saying is true: the shoemaker's kids go barefoot.

Did he give up? Did he leave Gotham?
HE TOLD ME TO GET OUT. AND STAY OUT. HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE.

...SAID IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE THERE. AS WELL AS BEING AGAINST THE LAW. THAT WAS THREE MONTHS AGO.

Three months ago. That's about the last time I heard from him as well...

He can't be gone. He can't be. Gotham needs a hero. Now more than ever.

THE NORTHERN BORDER OF TRICORNER.
WE KNOW YOU'VE GOT A STASH IN HERE.
GIVE US YOUR FOOD OR WE'RE GONNA TAKE YOUR DAUGHTERS!
G-GET OUT OF HERE! LEAVE US ALONE!
UHH!
NOW, WHO'S GONNA BRING US THAT FOOD?
MAMA!
I WILL! DON'T HURT HER, PLEASE!
PER FAVOR. A MIRACLE. A SAVIOR.
PLEASE DON'T HURT MY BABY...!

WHUMP
WHUU--!
FREEZE! GCPD!
WHHH...!
YOU'D BETTER SURRENDER, KIDDIES.
GRACIAS DIOS MIA.
NICELY DONE, BOCK. ERROL FLYNN WOULD BE PROUD.
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN PETIT.

OKAY! JUST DON'T SHOOT!
YOU GUYS WANNA WALK OUT OF HERE? GET NAKED.

YOU TOO, PUNK. YOUR CLOTHES ARE A GIFT TO THESE PEOPLE AFTER WHAT YOU'VE JUST DONE.

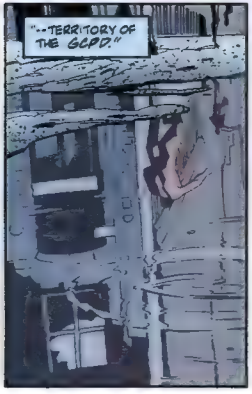
TURN AWAY, GIRLS.

I'M OKAY.

NOW GET OUT! NORTH! FAR AS YOU CAN!

BOCK, BULLOCK... WIRE THE AREA. MONTOYA, FOLEY, "SEASON" THE BASEMENT.

YOU'RE SAFE NOW, KIDS. THIS BUILDING IS NOW OFFICIALLY PART OF TRICORNER--


"--TERRITORY OF THE GCPD."

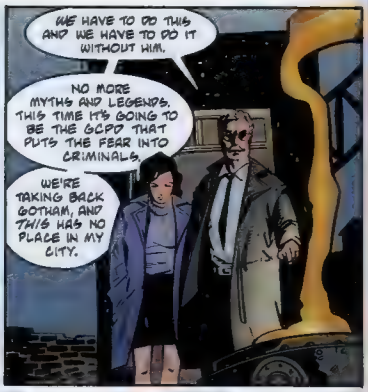
YOU SORRY YOU STAYED, BULLOCK?
HELL NO. TO BE A COP IN A PLACE WITH NO LAWS AND NO INTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT? DISPENSE ROUGH JUSTICE? MAKE UP THE RULES?
I LIKE THAT.
YOU KNOW THAT OLD SAYING, THAT COPS AND CRIMINALS ARE BASICALLY THE SAME BECAUSE THEY BOTH FIGURE THEY'RE ABOVE THE LAW? MAYBE IT'S TRUE.
I DON'T SEE MYSELF AS A CRIMINAL.
YOU'RE HERE, RIGHT? BUT YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE, BY ORDER OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, SO YOU'RE A TRESPASSER.
YOU NEED PRIVATE PROPERTY IN ORDER TO TRESPASS. WHO OWNS GOTHAM?
DAMN GOOD QUESTION.
FEDS RUN US OUT, THEN THEY SAY IT AIN'T PART OF THE USA ANYMORE.
MAYBE WE OWN IT BECAUSE WE'RE HERE.
YOU KNOW THE NATIVE AMERICANS THOUGHT NO ONE COULD OWN LAND. THEY FIGURED LAND WAS JUST SOMETHING YOU USED, AND AFTER YOU DIED SOMEONE ELSE WOULD USE IT.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY GOT WIPED OUT. IF IT WASN'T THEIRS, WHY FIGHT TO PROTECT IT?
GOTHAM'S MY TOWN. I INTEND TO FIGHT FOR IT.

THE VERMIN ALWAYS SURVIVE.
DEPRESSING, ISN'T IT? MAKES YOU WONDER IF RATS ARE THE SUPERIOR LIFE FORM...
I NEVER DID ASK YOU, FOLEY-- WHY'D YOU STAY? I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED IT FROM YOU.
WASN'T MY INTENTION.
IT'S WHAT I GET FOR BEING A GOOD COP. THERE I WAS KEEPING ORDER, HELPING EVERYBODY ELSE GET OUT. THERE WERE SO MANY TRYING TO LEAVE, IT WAS OBVIOUS GOTHAM WOULDN'T BE EVACUATED IN THE LITTLE TIME THEY GAVE US.
I ASSUMED THEY'D EXTEND THE DEADLINE...
ASSUMPTION IS THE MOTHER OF ALL FOUL-UPS...
YEAH...WE JUST HAVE TO HANG ON. WAIT FOR THE CAVALRY. THEY WON'T ABANDON US. THEY CAN'T.
REALITY CHECK-- THEY ALREADY HAVE. NOW IT'S UP TO US TO PROVE WE'RE SUPERIOR TO THE VERMIN.
MONTOYA--WHEN YOU GO BACK TO BASE?
TELL 'EM WE COULD USE SOME MORE WIRE.
WILL DO.
SO ARE YOU SORRY YOU STAYED, BOLK?
SOMETIMES.
WOULD YOU DO IT AGAIN?
I STAYED HERE BECAUSE GORDON ASKED ME TO. NO WAY I'D EVER SAY NO TO JAMES GORDON.

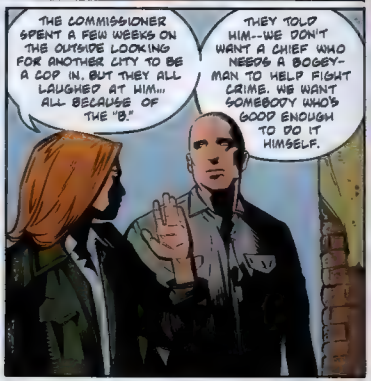
THERE YOU ARE, COMMISSIONER GORDON.
THE PERFECT WEAPON. WHEN YOU MISS, IT'LL COME RIGHT BACK TO YOU!
GCPD
SHOW ME.
Gotham Music
69¢
GOOD. TEACH EVERYONE HOW TO MAKE 'EM AND THROW 'EM.
SIR, BULLOCK REPORTS THAT THE NORTHERN BORDER IS NOW SECURE! BUT HE COULD USE SOME MORE BARBED WIRE.
WE'LL GET HIM WHATEVER HE NEEDS.
SIR, I'VE GOT SOMETHING WONDERFUL TO SHOW YOU--UP ON THE ROOF THERE.

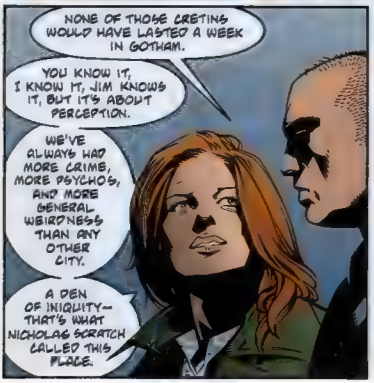
I USED A LOW VOLTAGE QUARTZ BULB AND SOME CAR BATTERIES, ALL MOUNTED ON A STEERING MECHANISM THAT--
NO!
WE DON'T NEED THIS BECAUSE HE'S NOT COMING!
UNDER-STAND THAT, WILSON?
HE'S NOT COMING!
YES, SIR. I UNDERSTAND.
COMMISSIONER, HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT?
BECAUSE HE'D HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW.
MAYBE HE HASN'T SHOWN UP BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T CALLED.
NO, MONTOYA. HE GAVE UP ON GOTHAM LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.
HE ALWAYS TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT.
BEING A VIGILANTE WAS EASIER THAN BEING A COP.

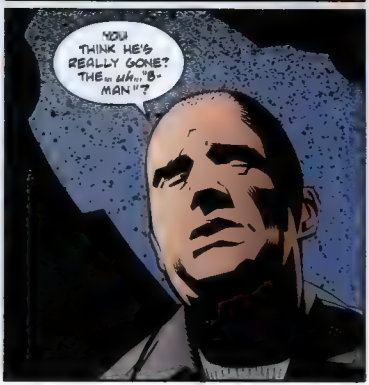
WHATEVER, ISN'T IT A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK HE'S AROUND?
WHY? — WHY RAISE FALSE HOPE?


WE HAVE TO DO THIS AND WE HAVE TO DO IT WITHOUT HIM.
NO MORE MYTHS AND LEGENDS. THIS TIME IT'S GOING TO BE THE GCPD THAT PUTS THE FEAR INTO CRIMINALS.
WE'RE TAKING BACK GOTHAM, AND THIS HAS NO PLACE IN MY CITY.

WHY IS HE SO TICKED OFF ABOUT THE BA--
THE "B." YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO UTTER THE NAME IN HIS PRESENCE.
I THOUGHT THEY WERE FRIENDS.


THE COMMISSIONER SPENT A FEW WEEKS ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER CITY TO BE A COP IN. BUT THEY ALL LAUGHED AT HIM... ALL BECAUSE OF THE "B."
THEY TOLD HIM--WE DON'T WANT A CHIEF WHO NEEDS A BOGEY-MAN TO HELP FIGHT CRIME. WE WANT SOMEBODY WHO'S GOOD ENOUGH TO DO IT HIMSELF.


NONE OF THOSE CRETINS WOULD HAVE LASTED A WEEK IN GOTHAM.
YOU KNOW IT, I KNOW IT, JIM KNOWS IT, BUT IT'S ABOUT PERCEPTION.
WE'VE ALWAYS HAD MORE CRIME, MORE PSYCHOS, AND MORE GENERAL WEIRDNESS THAN ANY OTHER CITY.
A DEN OF INIQUITY--THAT'S WHAT NICHOLAS SCRATCH CALLED THIS PLACE.


YOU THINK HE'S REALLY GONE? THE... UH... "B-MAN"?

IF HE'S NOT, I DON'T ENVY WHOEVER HAS TO BREAK THE NEWS TO MY HUSBAND.

I DON'T LIKE BEIN' OUT AT NIGHT ANY-MORE. IT'S TOO DARK.
IF YOU'RE SCARED, TURN ON YOUR FLASHLIGHT.
ANYWAY, IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER. AN OLD SHOE STORE. I SAW SOMEBODY MOVING BOXES IN TODAY.
WE'RE GONNA FIND OUT WHAT'S IN 'EM.
SAY IT AIN'T SO.
CAN'T BE.
SOME-BODY'S IDEA OF A GAG. A TRICK TO SCARE US AWAY.
FRANKIE-- THAT AIN'T NO TRICK!
OODS

NO LAW AND A NEW ORDER

part two: STRATEGY

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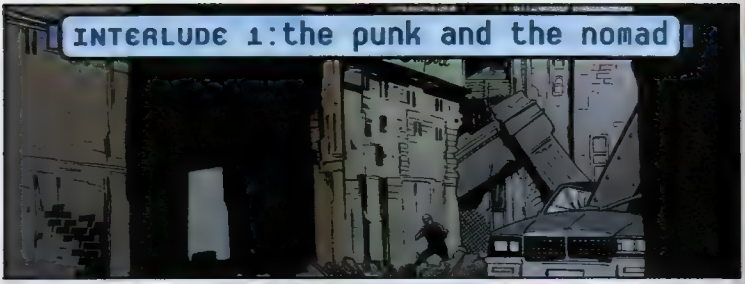
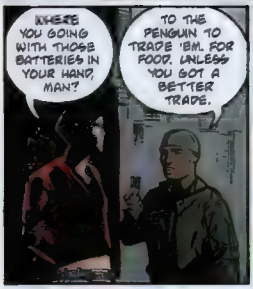
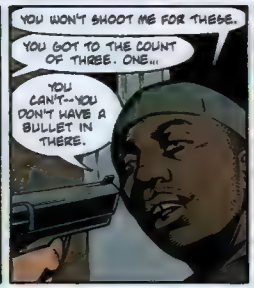
Squish is one of my operatives.
He's been pretty reliable, not prone to exaggeration.
So when he tells me what he saw, my heart skips a beat.
YOU'RE SURE IT WAS A BAT?
NOT "A" BAT. THE BAT. SAME ONE I USED TO SEE SHINING ON THE CLOUDS, B.Q.!
B.Q. Before Quake. And A.Q. After.
That's how you mark time in Gotham.
BUT DID YOU SEE HIM?
NO. JUST THE TAG. BUT IT'S GOTTA BE!

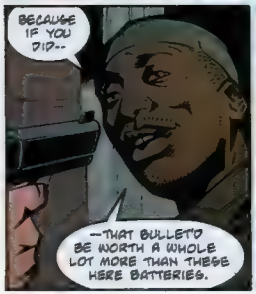
I want to believe it too. But it doesn't seem quite right. It doesn't seem like the way he'd do it.
UNTIL WE KNOW IT'S HIM, UNTIL WE SEE HIM, IT'S JUST SPRAYPAINT ON A WALL.
NOBODY HARDLY SAW HIM B.Q. WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF ANYBODY SEEIN' HIM NOW?
HAVE YOU HEARD ANYONE ELSE SAYING THEY SAW HIM? ANYONE ELSE AT ALL?
NO...
IF HE'S REALLY AROUND, HE'LL WANT TO BE SEEN. SO JUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
YEAH. OKAY.
Spraypaint. It just doesn't seem like the way he'd do it. But how WOULD he do it in a world with no civilization, no rules, no law?
In No Man's Land there is no status quo. So all bets are off. Maybe he would use spraypaint after all...
Still, if it is him...why doesn't he call?
DICTIONARY

INTERLUDE 1: the punk and the nomad









IT LOOKS DIRTY--
--BUT IT'S SAFE TO DRINK.
RUST?
THINK OF IT AS WATER WITH AN IRON SUPPLE-MENT.
I'D PREFER TO PRAY FOR RAIN.
SIR, WE'VE TAKEN ANOTHER BLOCK. KELSO AVENUE. I PRESUME YOU WANT THE HONORS...?
YOU PRESUME CORRECTLY, PACHECO.
I DECLARE THIS BLOCK OF KELSO AVENUE--
--TO BE UNDER THE CONTROL AND JURISDICTION OF THE G.C.P.D.--GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.
AND TO THINK YOU USED TO ARREST KIDS FOR DOING THAT.
YOU'LL GET TO DO THE NEXT ONE. I PROMISE.
WHERE SHOULD THE NEXT ONE BE?

OLD GOTHAM. WE TAKE BACK HQ AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.
GOTHAM
TR CORNER
DAMN RIGHT! WE TAKE BACK WHAT'S OURS!
NO. I SAY WE SHOULD HOLD OUR POSITION FOR AWHILE.
SHORE UP OUR TERRITORY, MAKE SURE WE CAN DEFEND WHAT WE HAVE.
DEFENSE? THAT'S OLD-STYLE COP TALK.
WE'RE NO LONGER A POLICE FORCE. WE'RE AN ARMY. OFFENSE. WE NEED TO SHOW STRENGTH. PERCEPTION OF POWER CAN BE AS IMPORTANT AS POWER ITSELF.
BESIDES, THE RESIDENTS HERE WILL DEFEND THEMSELVES IF NEED BE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO. WE'RE THEIR BEST HOPE.
BUT HQ? I DON'T THINK WE'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO MOUNT AN ATTACK LIKE THAT.
DON'T BE SO GUTLESS, FOLEY.
THE WORD IS PRUDENT," PETIT. SOMETHING I'M PROUD TO BE. AS OPPOSED TO "SUICIDAL," SOMETHING I'M DEFINITELY NOT.
THE LOBOYS CONTROL OLD GOTHAM, AND THEN WE'LL BE RIGHT UP AGAINST THE WITEST DEMONZ.
YOU PRESUME WE'D MOUNT A FRONTAL ATTACK, GO IN AND SECURE AN AREA.
FORGET THOSE KINDS OF TACTICS. WE'RE GOING TO START A WAR BETWEEN LOBOYS AND THE DEMONZ. LET 'EM THIN OUT THEIR RANKS.
THEN WE MOVE IN.

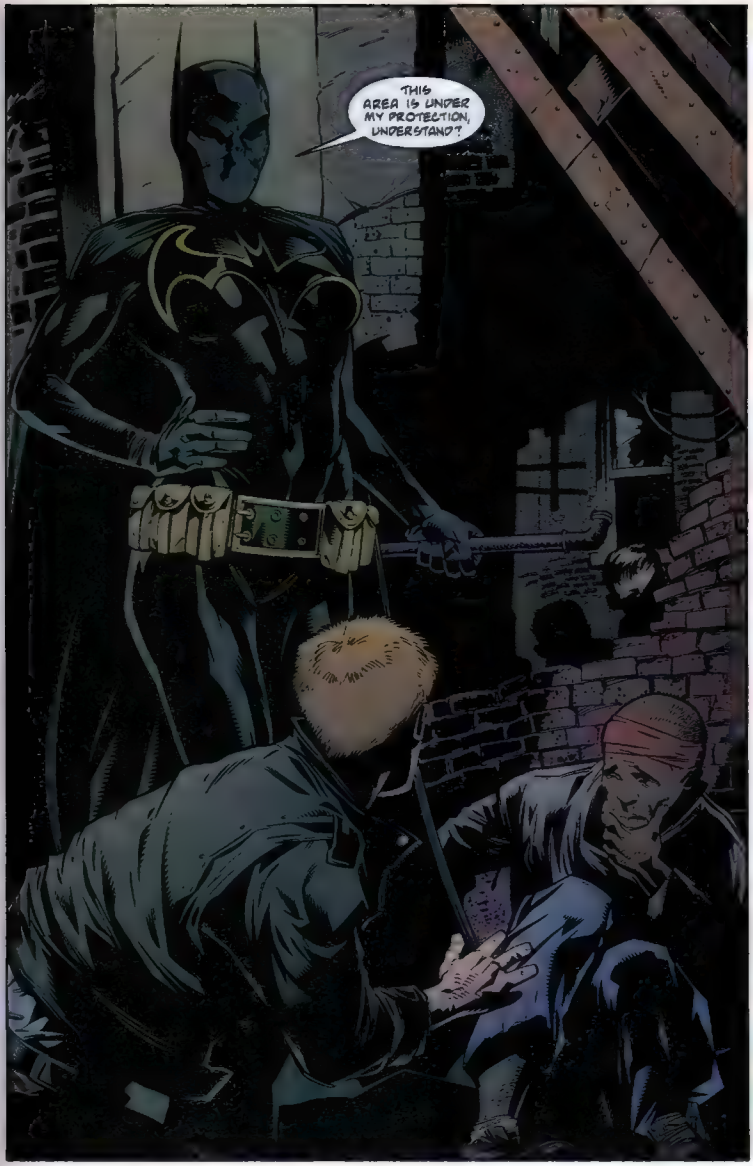
I LOVE IT...!
COMMISSIONER, ARE YOU ACTUALLY SAYING--
YES. I'M SAYING WE INCITE PEOPLE--BAD PEOPLE, DEGENERATES, TO KILL EACH OTHER.
YES, ONCE UPON A TIME, THAT WAS ILLEGAL. BUT ONCE UPON A TIME, WE WERE PART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, LIVING UNDER ITS LAWS AND ITS JUSTICE SYSTEM.
NOW WE'RE NOT. THERE'S NO LAW. BUT WE CAN STILL HAVE ORDER--IF WE IMPOSE IT. AND WE WILL IMPOSE IT, BECAUSE IT'S OUR CITY, AND WE WANT TO LIVE IN AN ORDERED SOCIETY.
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE BACK THIS CITY--
--BECAUSE WE THINK IT'S WORTH SAVING. THAT'S WHY WE STAYED, RIGHT?
DAMN RIGHT!
ANY QUESTIONS?
ULTERIOR MOTIVES, SIR?
WHAT'S ULTERIOR ABOUT TAKING BACK OUR OWN HEADQUARTERS?
YOUR DAUGHTER LIVES NEAR THERE, DOESN'T SHE?
YES.
YES, I WANT TO PROTECT MY DAUGHTER. IT'S NOT AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE. IT'S A HUMAN, FATHERLY MOTIVE.
ANYBODY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
ALL RIGHT THEN. I WANT TO BE READY FOR ACTION IN THREE DAYS.
OLD GOTHAM

INTERLUDE 2: the punk and the little kid

I WONDER-
--IF WE'LL BE AROUND TO REAP WHAT WE SOW..?
I THINK THIS ENVIRONMENT IS BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN YOU, JIM. STRENGTH. DECISIVENESS. LEADER-SHIP.
MORAL AMBIGUITY?
NOT MORAL AMBIGUITY.
YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.
NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE--
--THERE'S NO POLITICIAN OR JUDGE OR SPECIAL INTEREST REDEFINING WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT AND WRONG. YOU'RE WORKING PURELY ON INSTINCT.
AND YOUR INSTINCTS ARE GOOD, JAMES GORDON. THEY'RE EXCELLENT.
I HOPE THEY'RE ENOUGH...
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT HIM, AREN'T YOU?
NO. I THINK I'M BECOMING HIM. A LAW UNTO MY-SELF.
I WONDER HOW HE BECAME THAT WAY. MAYBE HE HAD EVERY-THING TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM TOO. MAYBE HE HAD TO BECOME...WHO HE BECAME.
WHY DON'T YOU SAY HIS NAME?
BECAUSE HE DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE. HE RAN OUT ON US. TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT. I ONLY WISH I KNEW WHY.
YOU WERE ALWAYS ON HIM FOR BENDING AND BREAKING THE LAW. MAYBE THE MESSAGE GOT THROUGH. MAYBE HE LEFT BECAUSE IT WAS THE LAWFUL THING TO DO.
--WOULDN'T THAT BE THE ULTIMATE KICK IN THE HEAD...?

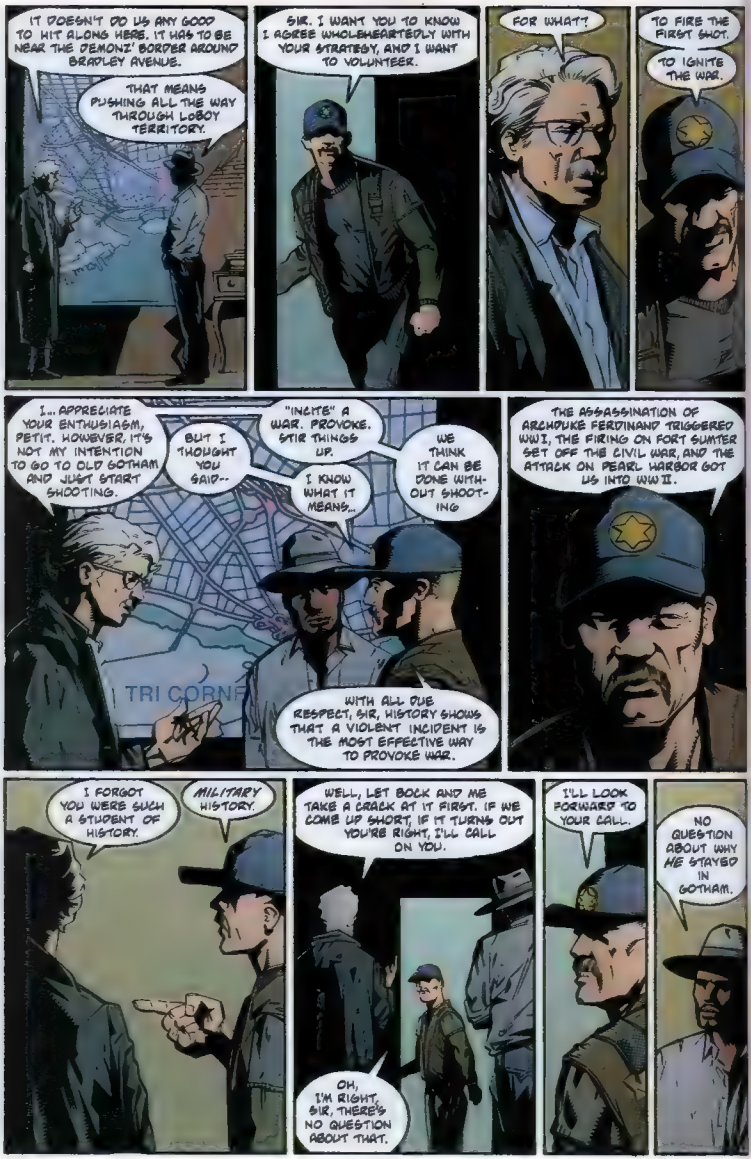
MAYBE IT WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA TRADING OUR FLASHLIGHTS FOR COATS..
YOUR EYES CAN ADJUST TO THE DARK. BUT YOUR SKIN CAN'T ADJUST TO THE COLD.
UH OH. IF THERE'S FIRE, THERE'S PEOPLE, AND IF THEY'RE TRYING TO KEEP WARM, THEY'RE GONNA WANT OUR COATS.
LET'S GO TH--
NICE COATS. GOOD WAY TO KEEP WARM ON A CHILLY NIGHT.
WHAT'S IN 'EM CAN KEEP US WARM ON A CHILLY NIGHT TOO. FRESH CHICKEN!
I SAY WE KEEP THE COATS AND SELL THE CHICKEN! THESE KIDS ARE SCARED!

IT'S THE BATMAN!
DON'T KILL ME, BATMAN! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!


THIS AREA IS UNDER MY PROTECTION, UNDERSTAND?

YOU'RE... A GIRL?
I'M THE BAT.
AND I'M YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE.
YOU BOYS ARE SLOW LEARNERS...
NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE. AND DON'T EVER LET ME SEE YOU EAST OF 4TH AVENUE AGAIN.
TELL YOUR FRIENDS.
PLEASE DON'T HURT US. YOU CAN HAVE OUR STUFF. JUST DON'T HURT US.
HURT YOU? WHY? DID YOU COMMIT A CRIME?
NO...WE THOUGHT...

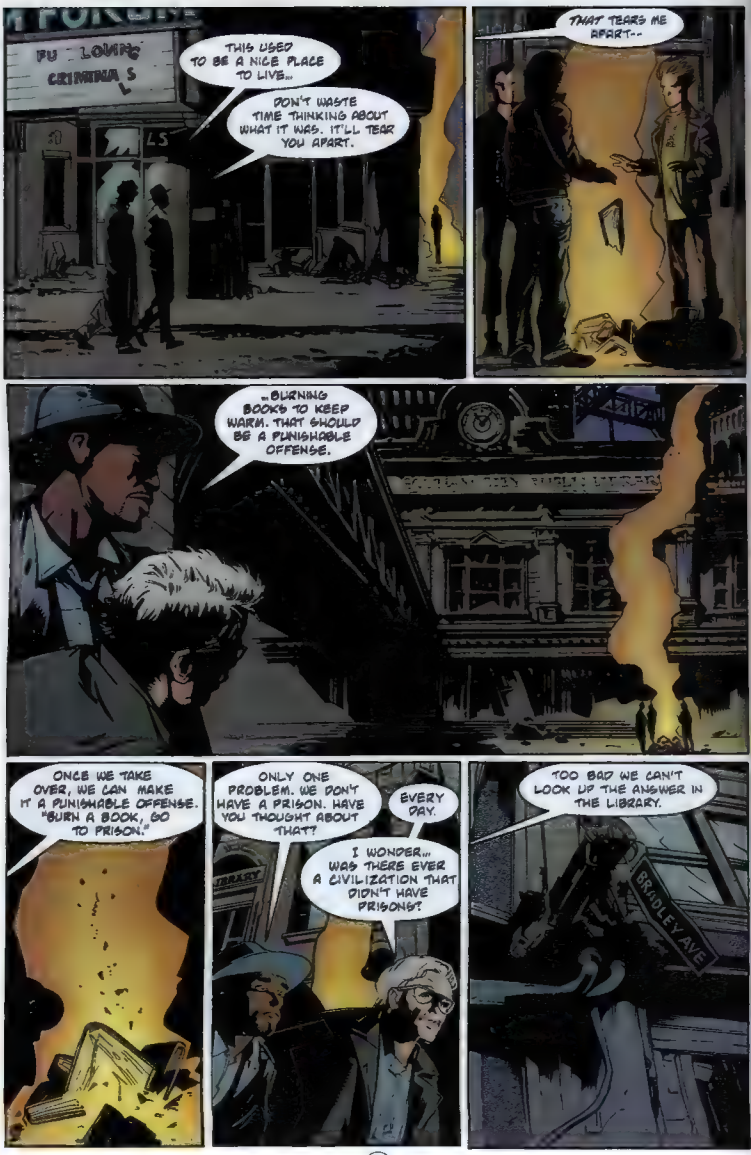
DOESN'T THIS SYMBOL MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
WELL, YEAH-- BUT YOU'RE A GIRL.
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO TRICK US, MAKING US BELIEVE YOU WERE THE BATMAN, TO, LIKE, GET OUR COATS.
YEAH. EVERYBODY AROUND HERE IS OUT FOR THEMSELVES.
THIS IS THE BAT. IN THIS TOWN, IT MEANS CRIMINALS BEWARE.
SO THEN, LIKE, YOU WORK WITH BATMAN?
HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M NOT BATMAN?
YOU'RE A GIRL!
IF YOU WERE A BIG TOUGH GUY AND YOU GOT BEAT UP BY A GIRL, WOULD YOU ADMIT IT?
OR WOULD YOU SAY IT WAS A HUGE GIANT--
--SEVEN FEET TALL, WITH FANGS AND CLAWS WHO TOOK YOU DOWN?
POINT.
TELL YOUR FRIENDS-- AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE IN GOTHAM, THERE'LL BE A BAT.
ALL THIS TIME SHE WAS A GIRL. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?
I DUNNO. AND I DON'T CARE. ALL I KNOW IS, SHE SAVED OUR BUTTS. I SAY THE BAT RULES.

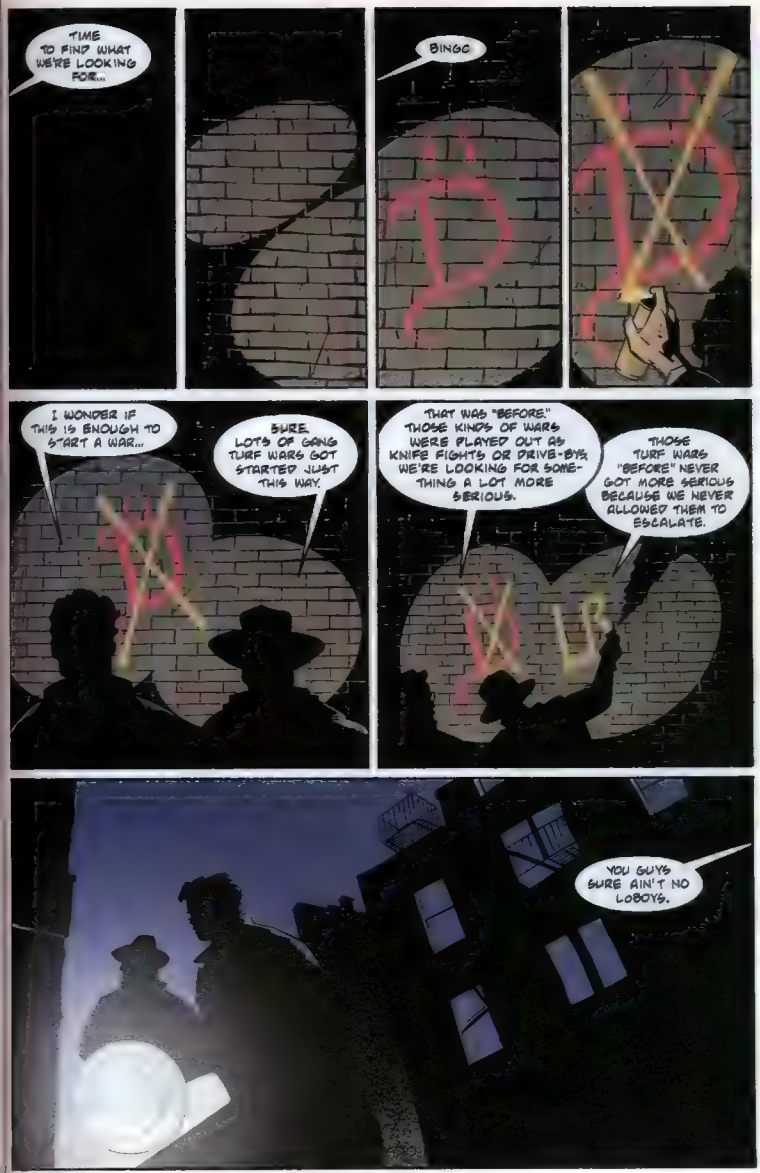

IT DOESN'T DO US ANY GOOD TO HIT ALONG HERE. IT HAS TO BE NEAR THE DEMONZ' BORDER AROUND BRADLEY AVENUE.
THAT MEANS PUSHING ALL THE WAY THROUGH LOBOY TERRITORY.
SIR. I WANT YOU TO KNOW I AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH YOUR STRATEGY, AND I WANT TO VOLUNTEER.
FOR WHAT?
TO FIRE THE FIRST SHOT.
TO IGNITE THE WAR.
I... APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, PETIT. HOWEVER, IT'S NOT MY INTENTION TO GO TO OLD GOTHAM AND JUST START SHOOTING.
BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID--
"INCITE" A WAR. PROVOKE. STIR THINGS UP.
I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS...
WE THINK IT CAN BE DONE WITHOUT SHOOTING
TRI CORNE
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR, HISTORY SHOWS THAT A VIOLENT INCIDENT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROVOKE WAR.
THE ASSASSINATION OF ARCHDUKE FERDINAND TRIGGERED WWI, THE FIRING ON FORT SUMTER SET OFF THE CIVIL WAR, AND THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR GOT US INTO WW II.
I FORGOT YOU WERE SUCH A STUDENT OF HISTORY.
MILITARY HISTORY.
WELL, LET BOCK AND ME TAKE A CRACK AT IT FIRST. IF WE COME UP SHORT, IF IT TURNS OUT YOU'RE RIGHT, I'LL CALL ON YOU.
OH, I'M RIGHT, SIR, THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT.
I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CALL.
NO QUESTION ABOUT WHY HE STAYED IN GOTHAM.

INTERLUDE 3: the punk and the stranger

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU?
BATMAN.
BULL. BATMAN LEFT GOTHAM WITH EVERYBODY ELSE.
MAYBE SO, BUT HE'S BACK NOW.
YOU'RE FULL OF IT. IF BATMAN WAS AROUND, HOW COME WE AIN'T SEEN NO BAT-SIGNAL IN ALL THESE WEEKS?
PROBABLY 'CAUSE THERE AIN'T NO ELECTRICITY, MORON.
ANYWAY, NOBODY'S EVER SEEN THE BATMAN. HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS HIM?
I SAW SOMEBODY WITH A BAT MASK, A BAT CAPE, AND A BLACK BAT ON THEIR SHIRT, WHO SAYS, "I'M THE BAT," AND BEAT UP ME AND TWO OTHER GUYS WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT.
YOU WANNA TELL ME IT'S THE EASTER BUNNY?
I STILL SAY YOU'RE FULL OF IT. BATMAN'S ANCIENT HISTORY.
I DON'T CARE WHETHER YOU BELIEVE ME OR NOT. I'M TELLING YOU HE'S BACK, AND I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND GOING EAST OF 9TH AVENUE.

YOU GOT A PROBLEM, MISTER?
HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU..
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU BEEN LOOKIN' AT ME. STARING AT MY BRUISES, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU A PERVERT OR SOMETHING? YOU INTO BRUISES? OR PAIN?
WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME PAIN, OLD MAN...
HEY!
TOO MANY DEGENERATES IN THIS CITY.


FU LOVING
CRIMINALS
THIS USED TO BE A NICE PLACE TO LIVE...
DON'T WASTE TIME THINKING ABOUT WHAT IT WAS. IT'LL TEAR YOU APART.
THAT TEARS ME APART--
...BURNING BOOKS TO KEEP WARM. THAT SHOULD BE A PUNISHABLE OFFENSE.
ONCE WE TAKE OVER, WE CAN MAKE IT A PUNISHABLE OFFENSE. "BURN A BOOK, GO TO PRISON."
ONLY ONE PROBLEM. WE DON'T HAVE A PRISON. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THAT?
EVERY DAY.
I WONDER... WAS THERE EVER A CIVILIZATION THAT DIDN'T HAVE PRISONS?
TOO BAD WE CAN'T LOOK UP THE ANSWER IN THE LIBRARY.
BRADLEY AVE


TIME TO FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR...
BINGO
I WONDER IF THIS IS ENOUGH TO START A WAR...
SURE. LOTS OF GANG TURF WARS GOT STARTED JUST THIS WAY.
THAT WAS "BEFORE." THOSE KINDS OF WARS WERE PLAYED OUT AS KNIFE FIGHTS OR DRIVE-BYS. WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING A LOT MORE SERIOUS.
THOSE TURF WARS "BEFORE" NEVER GOT MORE SERIOUS BECAUSE WE NEVER ALLOWED THEM TO ESCALATE.
YOU GUYS SURE AIN'T NO LOBOYS.

GOTHAM
BOOK STORE
BUT WE DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE. THE PENALTY FOR TRASHIN' THE DEMONZ IS DEATH.

LAW AND ORDER

part three: TACTICS

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joseph illidge *associate editor* gorfinkel & vincenzo *editors*
dennis o'neil *group editor* batman *created by* bob kane

BLAM
BLAM
GUCH
BLAM
GUH--!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND--
--THAT I DIDN'T WAIT FOR YOUR CALL, COMMISSIONER..?
THAT I TOOK A LITTLE INITIA-TIVE?
PETIT.
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING US ALL NIGHT?
WELL, I JUST COULDN'T SLEEP, WORRYING THAT YOU TWO MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE DEAD WRONG ABOUT YOUR TACTICS, TURNING THE GANGS AGAINST EACH OTHER BY JUST USING SPRAY PAINT.
WAS I WRONG, COMMIS-SIONER?
NOW THAT'S HOW TO INCITE A WAR..!
OF COURSE, IF THE DEMONZ DON'T SEE WHAT THOSE EVIL, VICIOUS LoBOYS HAVE DONE TO THEIR BUDDIES, IT'S ALL IN VAIN.
BUT THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM..
OH, DEE-MONZ! COME OUT TO PLAY-YAY!

OH DEE-MONZ! COME OUT AND PLAY-AY!
THEY SHOT SWIFTY IN THE BACK! THE G AND TITANIC... MUSTA BEEN AN AMBUSH.
WHY WOULD THEY DO IT?
'CAUSE THEY'RE LOBOYS! THEY DON'T NEED NO REASON AND THEY'RE GONNA PAY--RIGHT NOW!
KING D WOULDN'T WANT US STARTIN' NO WARS.
KING D AIN'T HERE. BESIDES, THEY STARTED IT! WE'RE GONNA FIGHT BACK!
WE OUGHTA TELL HIM. LET HIM KNOW WHAT'S UP.
CHICK, CHICK, CHICK CLUCK, CLUCK, CLUCK!
HEAR THAT? THEY'RE LAUGHIN' AT US! CALLIN' US CHICKEN!
C'MON!
COME, BACK HERE, YOU STINKING LOBOYS!
GOT 'EM!
C'MON, PETIT-- WE'VE GOTTA LEAD 'EM INTO LOBOY TERRITORY!

GO!
GO!
GO!
BRADLEY
THERE'RE SOME LOBOYS! THIS SHOULD GET THEIR ATTENTION...!
I SMELL DEMONZ!
NOBODY CALLS US CHICKEN!
UP HERE, SIR! WE DON'T WANT TO GET BETWEEN THOSE GANGS NOW!
YOU'RE GONNA DIE, LOBOYS! IT'S PAYBACK TIME!
YEAH! WE'RE GONNA SPLATTER YOU DEMONZ ACROSS THE WALL!
GENTLEMEN, CONGRATULATIONS. WE'VE JUST STARTED A WAR.

I WISH I COULD BE SURE I WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING.
WHEN HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SURE?
WHEN THAT MARRIED COP WAS GETTING HIMSELF INVOLVED WITH A SINGLE DETECTIVE, WAS HE SURE HE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING?
YOU KNOW, I WAS NEVER SURE ABOUT US THEN.
PETIT IS SURE.
I ALMOST ENVY HIS SIMPLISTIC BLACK AND WHITE VIEW OF THE WORLD.
MAYBE IT'S THE RIGHT VIEW FOR THIS WORLD.
I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT, BUT HE HASN'T BEEN WRONG YET. THE QUESTION IS, HOW FAR WILL WE HAVE TO GO?
HOW FAR ARE YOU PREPARED TO GO?
I DON'T KNOW.
YES. YOU DO. HOW FAR WILL A FATHER GO TO PROTECT HIS DAUGHTER?
ALL THE WAY.
YES, I'M PREPARED TO GO ALL THE WAY.

HE'LL DO.
YA THINK?
HE'S TALKIN' TO HIMSELF. DRUNK. NOBODY'LL MISS HIM.
.....
WHERE YA GOIN', MAN?
NOWHERE.
WASTE OF TIME GOIN' NOWHERE. ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU COULD BE GOIN' SOMEWHERE. TO DO SOMETHING USEFUL. WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING USEFUL?
NO.
OF COURSE, YOU COULD DIE...
I THINK WE GOT HIS ATTENTION.
YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'? ACROSS THAT BRIDGE. WITH US.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. THE BRIDGE IS BROKEN. THE BRIDGE DON'T GO NOWHERE.
BUT THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE GOING ANYWAY, RIGHT? NOWHERE ...?
MOVE!
WE'RE GONNA GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO GET OUT OF GOTHAM.
CAN YOU SWIM, MISTER?
NOT IN THERE. MINES.
HEY, HE'S NOT SO DUMB AFTER ALL.

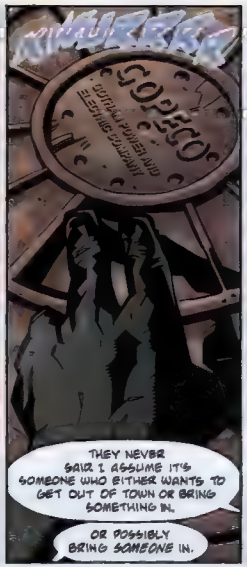
THAT'S RIGHT! THE GOTHAM RIVER HAS MINES IN IT. LEAST IT'S SUPPOSED TO. WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE.
OUR BOSS DON'T KNOW FOR SURE EITHER. AND OUR BOSS WANTS TO FIND OUT. SO HE SENT US TO INVESTIGATE.
AND NOW WE'RE SENDING YOU. TO DO SOMETHING USEFUL.
THING IS, IF THERE'S NO MINES, YOU CAN ESCAPE. BUT IF THERE IS, AND YOU BLOW ONE UP, THEN THERE'LL BE ONE LESS MINE TO BLOW UP THE NEXT GUY WE THROW IN.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, IT'S USEFUL.
AWWGH!
WHAT THE HELL?!?
Uhhh... Uhhh...
Wuuuuh--!
THE SIGN SAID "DANGER." IT WAS CORRECT.

Uh... uh... uh...
BACK OFF! I'LL KILL THIS GUY!
RUN AWAY.
LIKE HELL! YOU'RE GOING DOWN!
WHOOF
HANG ON, ALFRED.
A SENSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION, SIR.

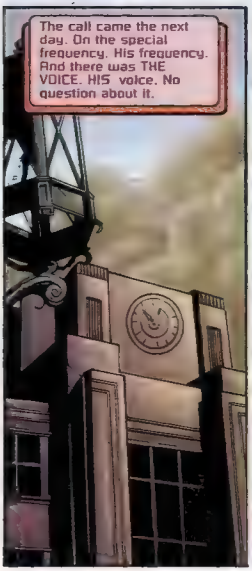
AAAH!
PLOOSH
WHOOM!

APOLOGIES, ALFRED. I CUT THAT A LITTLE CLOSE.
INDEED.
IS THE HOMING TRANSMITTER DEFECTIVE, SIR?
IT WORKED FINE.
I DIDN'T.
I HAVE TO RELEARN HOW TO GET AROUND IN THIS TOWN.
BROKEN CORNICES, RUBBLE, COLLAPSED ROOFTOPS... IT ALL SLOWS ME DOWN.
I HOPE GOTHAM ISN'T TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING.
I THOUGHT YOU'D WORKED PAST ALL THAT, SIR.
I THOUGHT I HAD TOO...
THE WORK, SIR. IT'S ABOUT THE WORK. THERE'S MUCH TO DO. AND IF NOT US, SIR, THEN WHO?
YES, WHO...
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE WE'VE SEEN YOU IN ACTION, SIR. YOU LOOKED GOOD. DID IT FEEL GOOD?
NO, ALFRED.
IT FELT GREAT

RESULTS OF TONIGHT'S RECON?
WELL... THE RIVER IS MINED.
AND THEIR BOSS?


KINNARD
COPECO
THEY NEVER SAIR I ASSUME IT'S SOMEONE WHO EITHER WANTS TO GET OUT OF TOWN OR BRING SOMETHING IN.
OR POSSIBLY BRING SOMEONE IN.

THERE IS LIKELY AN ADDITIONAL WAY TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE, SIR...
ALFRED, YOU KNOW THAT MY APPROACH THIS TIME IS...
SIR! IF I'M GATHERING INFORMATION, THAT ALREADY COMPROMISES YOUR "SINGLE SOLITARY CRUSADER" APPROACH...
YOU'RE RIGHT, ALFRED. I SHOULD AT LEAST CHECK IN...


The call came the next day. On the special frequency. His frequency. And there was THE VOICE. HIS voice. No question about it.

I'M BACK. JUST THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW.
SO IT WAS YOU--DOING THE TAGGING DOWN IN DOOLEY SQUARE...?
DOOLEY SQUARE? NO. HAVEN'T BEEN THERE.
THEN WHO WAS IT?

I HATE it when he does that
CONNECTION TERMINATED

Day 102: The police are poised, ready for action.
They should be—they've waited days for this.
It's time. He gives the order: TAKE THE STREETS!
THERE'S A NEW GANG ON THE STREET! THE BLUE BOYS! GCPD! ATTENTION, STREET DEMONZ! LOBOYS! YOU'RE IN OUR TERRITORY! SURRENDER NOW!
The gangbangers are weak and disorganized.

They go down
Quickly
Easily.
A minor skirmish and the police take back their headquarters.
It's a great morale booster
Finally, the residents are invited to join in...
ATTENTION, RESIDENTS! WE ARE THE POLICE! WE'RE HERE TO MAINTAIN ORDER!
HELP US RID YOUR STREETS OF THESE GANGSTERS!
They're thrilled to help. With bricks, pots and pans, bare fists.
It's grass-roots community policing. Who knows, there may still be hope for Gotham.

So here I sit, waiting to hear the one voice I want to hear more than anyone else's...
NOK NOK NOK
BARBARA?
dad...
DAD!
THERE AREN'T MANY WOMEN WHO CAN SAY THAT A WAR WAS FOUGHT ON THEIR BEHALF.
YOU'RE KIDDING.
He's not. I guess it's true what they say.
A father will do anything to protect his daughter
DAD
SIR? SORRY TO INTERRUPT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAS BEEN SECURED.
SO I SEE. WELL DONE, BOCK...WELL DONE!

SECURE THE DEMONZ IN THE TEMPORARY HOLDING AREA FOR NOW.
RISKING ALL OF OUR LIVES FOR HIS DAUGHTER. HE WAS DAMN LUCKY.
LUCK, HELL. IT WAS STRATEGY AND TACTICS.
IT WAS PURE RECKLESSNESS. SANCTIONING MURDER. HE SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO CALL HIMSELF A COP.
HE DOESN'T CALL HIMSELF A COP, FOLEY.
HE CALLS HIMSELF COMMISSIONER.
WE HAVE PRISONERS, BUT NO PRISONS.
CAN WE LET THEM STAY? PACIFY THEM, SO TO SPEAK?
SIGN OF WEAKNESS.
IS IT?
PATTON LET THE GERMANS HE CONQUERED CONTINUE TO RUN THE COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT, PETIT.
HE WAS CONDEMNED FOR IT, COMMISSIONER. BESIDES, THERE IS NO INFRASTRUCTURE--
--AND THESE LOSERS AREN'T CAPABLE OF RUNNING ANYTHING!
CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT-- THESE PALOOKAS ARE BARELY ONE STEP ABOVE TERRORISTS...
WELL, I KNOW WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH TERRORISTS.
WE'RE THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE, NOT THE GESTAPO.
TELL ME, COMMISSIONER, DO YOU WANT 'EM SHARING AN APARTMENT WITH YOUR DAUGHTER?

WE TELL THEM TO GET OUT OF OUR TERRITORY. LET THEM BE SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM.
THAT MEANS THEY'LL JUST BE OUR PROBLEM AGAIN LATER ON.
MAYBE NOT.
PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE ACROSS AN ARTIFICIAL BORDER?
WE'RE COPS, THEY'RE CRIMINALS. IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN. LOOK AT BOSNIA. LOOK AT THE MIDDLE EAST.
IF WE PUSH THEM OUT OF HERE, SOMEBODY ELSE MAY "SOLVE" THE PROBLEM FOR US.
EXACTLY
"SOMEBODY ELSE"? YOU GUYS SLAY ME. YOU'D NEVER KILL A COW, BUT YOU'D EAT A T-BONE STEAK. IT'S ALL THE SAME.
IT'S NOT ALL THE SAME. IF STEAK WASN'T ON THE MENU, I'D EAT SOMETHING ELSE.
THE COWS ARE KILLED BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE YOU LIKE TO EAT STEAKS.
ENOUGH. I'M IN CHARGE, AND I SAY WE KICK 'EM OUT OF HERE. UNDER PENALTY OF DEATH.
AND YOU'RE PREPARED TO, ENFORCE IT, SIR?
YES.
GOOD ANSWER

MEMBERS OF THE STREET DEMONZ, AND LOBOYS--
YOU HAVE ONE HOUR TO GET OUT OF OUR TERRITORY. IF ANY OF YOU ARE FOUND HERE AFTER THAT, THE PENALTY IS DEATH.
AND JUST TO SHOW YOU WE'RE NOT FOOLING AROUND..
BLAM
NOW GET OUTTA HERE!

DAMMIT, PETIT, THAT WAS OUT OF LINE--WAY OUT OF LINE!
WE'RE STILL POLICE, AND WE WILL ACT LIKE POLICE AND THAT MEANS WE WILL NOT RESORT TO DEATH SQUAD TACTICS.
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?
YES, SIR. I WAS JUST TAKING A LITTLE MORE INITIATIVE, SIR--SO THAT THEY KNOW WE'RE PREPARED TO ENFORCE YOUR DEATH PENALTY.
NOW THEY'LL RUN ALL OVER TOWN, TELL EVERYBODY THAT THE COPS HAVE GONE CRAZY, SHOOTING PEOPLE DOWN IN THE STREETS.
AND MAYBE THEY ACTUALLY WON'T COME BACK.
YOU WANT TO TELL ME I'M WRONG, COMMISSIONER? GO AND LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND TELL ME I'M WRONG.
YOU GUYS ENJOY YOUR STEAKS.

DOOLEY SQUARE
DON'T EVER COME BACK HERE, OR FACE THE WRATH OF THE BAT.
I-- I--I'M GONE!
NICE COSTUME.
DIDN'T THINK YOU'D APPROVE.
I DON'T.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND. AND GOTHAM NEEDED A BAT.
MY PREVIOUS WHEREABOUTS AND MY REASONS ARE MY OWN.
WHATEVER. YOU'RE GONNA NEED HELP.
NO.
YES. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET.
I SENT MY OTHER PARTNERS AWAY. TOO DANGEROUS. I DIDN'T WANT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO THEM. FOR WHAT THEY MIGHT BECOME.
OF COURSE. A CITY WITHOUT LAW OFFERS CERTAIN "BEHAVIORAL TEMPTATIONS." BUT I'VE ALREADY BEEN DOING THIS FOR WEEKS IN YOUR ABSENCE. AND I INTEND TO KEEP DOING IT. SO YOU HAVE NO ISSUE OF RESPONSIBILITY WITH ME.

AND THE COSTUME?
I DON'T HAVE TO WEAR IT. BUT IT'S A POWERFUL IMAGE. PRIMAL. MYTHICAL. WORKS VERY WELL. STILL, IF YOU TELL ME TO TAKE IT OFF, I WILL.
THE TAGGING-- IT'S A GOOD IDEA. I INTEND TO USE IT.
THANKS.
YOU ARE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING-- THE CITY DOES NEED A BAT.
MAYBE MORE THAN ONE.
JUST DON'T DISGRACE THE SYMBOL.
THEN... I'M "APPROVED"?
NO. BUT YOU'RE NOT DISAPPROVED.
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
FOR NOW.

NO LAW AND A FEW ORDER

part four: LANGUAGE

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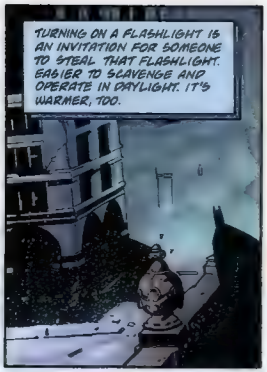
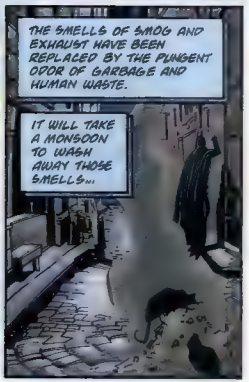
joseph illidge *associate editor* **gorfinkel & vincenzo** *editors*
dennis o'neil *group editor* **batman** *created by* **bob kane**

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, GOTHAM IS SAFE AT NIGHT. NO ONE GOES OUT, NOT EVEN THE CRIMINALS. IT'S TOO DARK, HARD TO SEE.


TURNING ON A FLASHLIGHT IS AN INVITATION FOR SOMEONE TO STEAL THAT FLASHLIGHT. EASIER TO SCAVENGE AND OPERATE IN DAYLIGHT. IT'S WARMER, TOO.

AND SO, NO ONE SEES ME, NO ONE BOTHERS ME.
AND MY NIGHT VISION LENSES MAKE THE TASK RELATIVELY SIMPLE.

THE QUIET IS STRANGE. NO TRAFFIC, NO TRAINS, NO ELECTRICAL HUM.


THE SMELLS OF SMOG AND EXHAUST HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY THE PUNGENT ODOR OF GARBAGE AND HUMAN WASTE.
IT WILL TAKE A MONSOON TO WASH AWAY THOSE SMELLS...

GOTHAM IS A DIFFERENT WORLD NOW. WITH A DIFFERENT PULSE, A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE.

LANGUAGE. THE WORDS OF MY CHILDHOOD FRENCH TEACHER COME BACK TO ME...

YOU CAN STUDY A LANGUAGE IN SCHOOL FOR YEARS, BUT UNTIL YOU LIVE IN A PLACE WHERE THE LANGUAGE LIVES, YOU CAN NEVER TRULY UNDERSTAND IT.

I REALIZE IT'S BEYOND OUR PERIMETER, BUT I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD SEE IT...
WHAT WERE YOU DOING WAY OUT HERE, RAMIREZ?
RECON. SCOUTING. WHAT DOES IT MEAN, COMMISSIONER?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IT MEANS--NOTHING! IF HE'S REALLY HERE, HE WOULDN'T ANNOUNCE HIMSELF LIKE THIS. TAGGING. IT'S NOT HIS STYLE.
IT'S NOT OUR STYLE EITHER, BUT WE DO IT.
PROBABLY JUST SOME JOKER--EXCUSE ME, BAD WORD.. JOKESTER. BUT I WANT TO FIND OUT WHO--
SIR, WHOEVER IT WAS HASN'T VIOLATED OUR TERRITORY.
YOU'RE RIGHT, BOCK. IT'S NOT OUR CONCERN UNTIL IT'S ON OUR TURF.
SO WE LEAVE IT?
NO. PAINT OVER IT. IT MIGHT GIVE SOMEONE THE WRONG IDEA--THAT HE'S ACTUALLY HERE. THAT THIS STREET IS SAFE.
IT'S NOT HIM. IT'S NOT HIS STYLE.

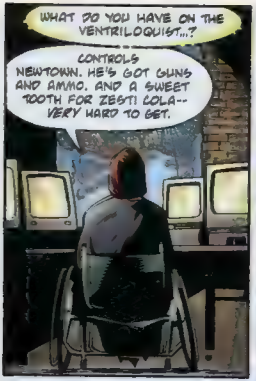
WHO DID DIS? WHO'S THE DIRTY RAT WHAT SPRAY-PAINTED MY WALL WITH DIS--DIS--INSULT?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN...
DON'T SAY DAT NAME. I'LL VENTILATE YA IF YA SAY DAT NAME!
...A WISE GUY. SOMEONE WITH A VERY SICK SENSE OF HUMOR.
Hmmm. GIMME ANOTHER ZESTI. HELPS ME THINK.
WE DON'T HAVE MANY BOTTLES LEFT, SCARFACE...
ANYBODY SEE WHAT MOOK DID DIS TAG?
IT HAPPENED AT NIGHT.
COWARDS COME OUT AT NIGHT. AND YELLOW BELLIES! BWHO--SEND A MESSAGE TO DIS COWARDLY YELLOW BELLY!
DAT AIN'T NO MESSAGE! DAT'S JUST PAINT!

HERE'S A MESSAGE! PAINT THE CORPSE!
BLAM
THAT'S.. COLD-BLOODED MURDER...!
DAT'S FEAR--A LANGUAGE EVERYBODY UNDER-STANDS!
NOW HEAR DIS! I'M SCARFACE, SEE? DIS IS MY TERRITORY! DO WHAT I SAY AND YOU LIVE! REFUSE AND YOU DIE!
I GOT THE GUNS! I GOT DA AMMO! I GOT DA TRIGGERS! PAY ME TRIBUTE AND YOU GET PROTECTION. MESS WITH ME AND YOU GET LEAD POISONING!
YES, SIR, LORD S!
YOU'RE THE BOSS!
WHAT-EVER YOU SAY, SIR!
THERE AIN'T NO... CREATURE OF THE NIGHT! AND IF THERE WAS, HE'D TRY TO KILL YA!
NOW, RHINO'LL GIVE OUT THE WORK ASSIGNMENTS. AND ANYBODY GRINGS ME A ZEST! COLA GETS A BONUS!
GROUP ONE CLEARS RUBBLE FROM THE MURRAY BUILDING, LIKE YESTERDAY. GROUP TWO, NEW PROJECT--DIG UNDER LACEY STREET. THERE SHOULD BE SOME GOODS DOWN THERE.

I'VE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG. THERE'S NO RESPECT.
NO FEAR.
BUT WHY SHOULD I BE SURPRISED?
MYTHS LOSE THEIR POWER IF THEY AREN'T REPEATED.
AND IF THEY DON'T SEE ME--
--THEY WON'T TALK ABOUT ME.
SQUEAK!
SQUEEK
IN THE DEAD QUIET, THE SOUND OF THE WINDOW OPENING SEEMS DEAFENING...
Sshhh. I'M THE BATMAN. I'M ON YOUR SIDE. TELL ME WHERE SCARFACE SLEEPS.
NO! SCARFACE PROTECTS US! YOU'RE BAD! GO AWAY! OUTSIDERS ARE BAD!
NO-- I'M HERE TO HELP. I CAN END THE TERROR.
GET OUT! GO AWAY!

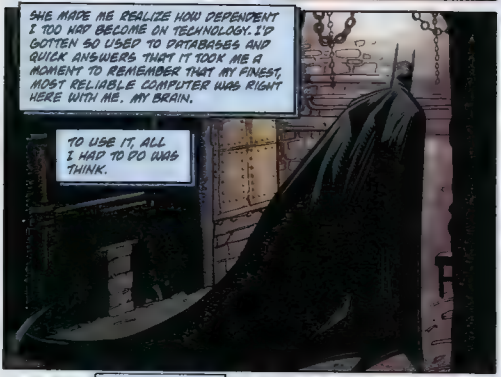
FREEZE!
YOU'RE DEAD!
THE SUDDEN LIGHT IS BLINDING.
I MAKE MYSELF A MOVING TARGET.
KLAM
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DIDN'T TAKE ANOTHER SHOT AT ME. MAYBE THERE'S SOME FEAR AFTER ALL...

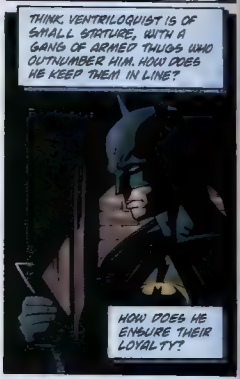
WEEKS OF RECON, ALFRED--AND WE MISSED IT.
YES, WE LEARNED WHERE OUR ENEMIES ARE, WE LEARNED THE BOUNDARIES, GOT A SENSE OF LOGISTICS. BUT WE ASSUMED THE PEOPLE WERE STILL THE SAME. THEY'RE NOT.
GOPCO
GOTHAM POWER AND LIGHTING COMPANY
THEY'RE CONQUERED PEOPLE.
ALL THEY KNOW IS WHAT THE VENTRILOQUIST TELLS THEM--ALL OUTSIDERS ARE BAD, AND THEY'RE IN A SAFE HAVEN.
NO TV, NO RADIO, NO PHONES. VENTRILOQUIST IS THEIR ONLY SOURCE OF INFORMATION.
SIX SQUARE BLOCKS--
--AND IT'S LIKE BEING IN ANOTHER WORLD.
PERHAPS THOSE SIX BLOCKS ARE AN ANOMALY, SIR...
I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM DOWN, ALFRED. I HAVE TO.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK FOR HELP. YOUR FORMER PARTNERS? PERHAPS EVEN THE FORMER COMMISSIONER--GORDON.
THE IMAGE OF A POLICEMAN MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN THE IMAGE OF THE BAT.
NO. I HAVE TO DO THIS MYSELF.
GOTHAM IS MY CITY. MY RESPONSIBILITY. I TOOK AN OATH TO PROTECT IT. BRUCE WAYNE COULDN'T SAVE IT, SO BATMAN MUST.
IF THE MYTH OF THE BAT HAS BEEN NEGLECTED, IT'S MY FAULT. I HAVE TO RECREATE IT. REBUILD IT--
"--FROM THE GROUND UP"
I SCARED HIM OFF, BOSS...
--YOU SHOULDA SEEN HIM RUN! HE AIN'T COMING BACK.
GOOD WORK. YOU GET A CIGAR FOR DAT.
RHINO, GIVE HIM A CIGAR AND A RELOAD.
JUST REMEMBER, DON'T EVER SAY DAT NAME. IF WE DON'T SAY HIS NAME, HE DON'T EXIST.

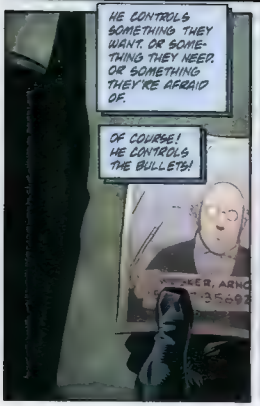

WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON THE VENTRILOQUIST...?
CONTROLS NEWTOWN. HE'S GOT GUNS AND AMMO. AND A SWEET TOOTH FOR ZEBTI LOLA--VERY HARD TO GET.

I KNOW ALL THAT. TELL ME MORE.
I CAN'T.
CAN'T? THAT WORD HAS NEVER BEEN IN YOUR VOCABULARY.
IT IS NOW. INCREASINGLY SO.

I CAN'T HACK HIS COMPUTERS BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE COMPUTERS. I CAN'T TAP HIS PHONES BECAUSE THERE ARE NO PHONES. I CAN'T EVEN GET SECOND OR THIRD-HAND INFORMATION BECAUSE THE GUNS KEEP EVERYONE AWAY.
I'M A HIGH-TECH GIRL IN A LOW-TECH WORLD. SORRY.


SHE MADE ME REALIZE HOW DEPENDENT I TOO HAD BECOME ON TECHNOLOGY. I'D GOTTEN SO USED TO DATABASES AND QUICK ANSWERS THAT IT TOOK ME A MOMENT TO REMEMBER THAT MY FINEST, MOST RELIABLE COMPUTER WAS RIGHT HERE WITH ME. MY BRAIN.
TO USE IT, ALL I HAD TO DO WAS THINK.


THINK. VENTRILOQUIST IS OF SMALL STATURE, WITH A GANG OF ARMED THUGS WHO OUTNUMBER HIM. HOW DOES HE KEEP THEM IN LINE?
HOW DOES HE ENSURE THEIR LOYALTY?

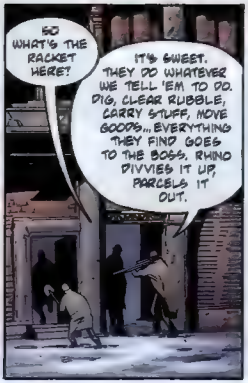

HE CONTROLS SOMETHING THEY WANT. OR SOMETHING THEY NEED. OR SOMETHING THEY'RE AFRAID OF.
OF COURSE! HE CONTROLS THE BULLETS!

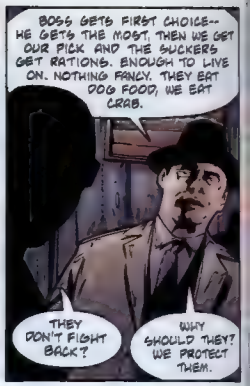
THE COSTUME IS A LIABILITY. YET WITHOUT IT, THERE IS NO BAT.

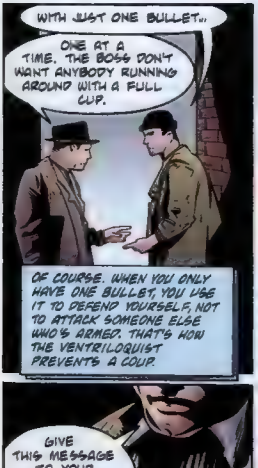
COMPROMISE. TAKE IT OFF. UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR THE MAXIMUM EFFECT.

NEWTOWN. SCARFACE SECTOR.
DAYTIME.
HEY!
HOLD IT, FELLA. WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?
TRADE?
MAYBE I'LL JUST TAKE IT.
MAYBE I'LL JUST DROP IT.
MAYBE I'LL JUST KILL YOU FOR IT.
SPEND YOUR ONLY BULLET ON A BROKEN BOTTLE OF SPILLED SODA?
WOULDN'T BE SMART.
HOW'D YOU KNOW I ONLY GOT ONE BULLET?
I DIDN'T. IT WAS A GUESS--
--BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE SHOOTER LAST NIGHT DIDN'T FIRE A SECOND SHOT.
SCARFACE--
LORD SCARFACE.
--AND THE VENTRILOQUIST, RIGHT?
GUY I KNEW RAN WITH THAT GANG TWO YEARS AGO SAID HE WAS THE CHEAPEST BOSS IN GOTHAM. ALWAYS GRINDING 'EM ON THE SPLIT. IS HE GRINDING YOU?
I AIN'T COMPLAINING. HEY, I GOT CIGARETTES. YOU WANT CIGARETTES FOR THAT ZEST!?
I'D PREFER MATCHES.
HOW ABOUT A LIGHTER?
MAYBE...IF IT WORKS...

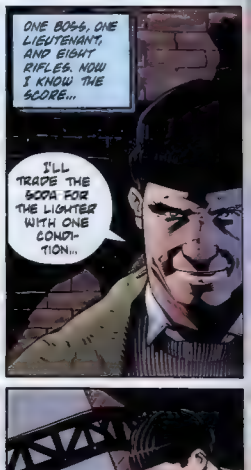
HEY! THIS AIN'T BREAK TIME! GET BACK DOWN IN THAT BASEMENT AND DIG SOME MORE!


SO WHAT'S THE RACKET HERE?
IT'S SWEET. THEY DO WHATEVER WE TELL 'EM TO DO. DIG, CLEAR RUBBLE, CARRY STUFF, MOVE GOODS... EVERYTHING THEY FIND GOES TO THE BOSS. RHINO DIVVIES IT UP, PARCELS IT OUT.


BOSS GETS FIRST CHOICE-- HE GETS THE MOST. THEN WE GET OUR PICK AND THE SUCKERS GET RATIONS. ENOUGH TO LIVE ON. NOTHING FANCY. THEY EAT DOG FOOD, WE EAT CRAB.
THEY DON'T FIGHT BACK?
WHY SHOULD THEY? WE PROTECT THEM.


WITH JUST ONE BULLET..
ONE AT A TIME. THE BOSS DON'T WANT ANYBODY RUNNING AROUND WITH A FULL CLIP.
OF COURSE. WHEN YOU ONLY HAVE ONE BULLET, YOU USE IT TO DEFEND YOURSELF, NOT TO ATTACK SOMEONE ELSE WHO'S ARMED. THAT'S HOW THE VENTRILOQUIST PREVENTS A COUP.

SEEIN' AS THERE'S EIGHT OF US, HE SAYS WE GOTTA CONSERVE RESOURCES.
MAKES SENSE.


ONE BOSS, ONE LIEUTENANT, AND EIGHT RIFLES. NOW I KNOW THE SCORE...
I'LL TRADE THE SODA FOR THE LIGHTER WITH ONE CONDITION...

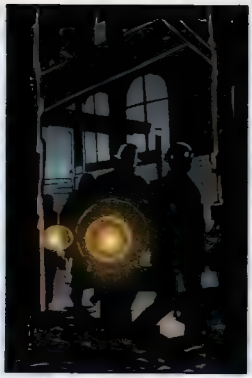
GIVE THIS MESSAGE TO YOUR BOSS. COULD BE ANOTHER BOTTLE IN IT FOR YOU...

DEAL.

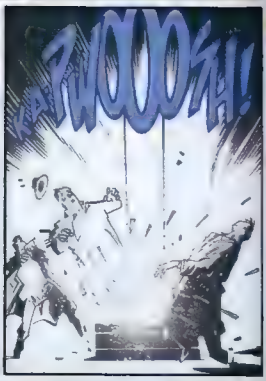
--LETTER READS: "I HAVE 1000 ROUNDS OF 9mm AMMUNITION FOR TRADE. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, HAVE THE MESSENGER WEAR A RED ARMBAND TOMORROW WHERE HE MET ME."
WHO GAVE YA DIS?
BIG GUY. NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE. SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT, THOUGH. NOT LIKE OUR USUAL DUMMIES-- uh, FOOLS.
ALL RIGHT. WAIT OUTSIDE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE DISCIPLINED HIM, SCARFACE. "NEVER TALK TO STRANGERS." THAT'S WHAT MY MOMMY ALWAYS SAID.
SHADDUP! YER MUDDER'S BEEN DEAD FOR 20 YEARS!
BUT WE CAN'T TRUST A MESSAGE LIKE THAT!
WE CAN'T IGNORE IT. OUR AMMO AIN'T GONNA LAST FOREVER. 1000 MORE ROUNDS WOULD BE A GIG HELP. I SAY--
"--WE PLAY IT OUT."

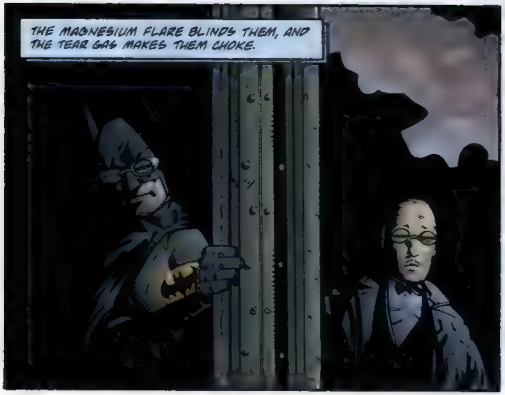
WHERE'S DEESE GOODS YOU SAID YOU HAD?
IN A SAFE PLACE. I BROUGHT SAMPLES IN MY POCKET.
FOUR BULLETS, LORD SCARFACE.
WHY ME? WHY AM I DESERVING OF THIS GENEROSITY? YOU DON'T KNOW ME. I DON'T KNOW YOU.
PRACTICALITY. IT'S A HEAVY BOX, REASONABLY CLOSE TO HERE. I DON'T WANT TO LUG IT ACROSS TOWN IF I DON'T HAVE TO.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR 'EM?
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?
COME WITH ME...

BRING ME YOUR CASE OF AMMO. YOU CAN TAKE OUT OF HERE WHATEVER YOU CAN CARRY IN YOUR TWO ARMS.
GASOLINE
NO, I WON'T MAKE THE TRADE IN YOUR TERRITORY. THAT'S AN INVITATION TO GET SHOT.
I'M LISTENING...
TOMORROW. NOON. ADDISON STREET SUBWAY STATION. BRING TWO DOZEN FLASHLIGHTS AND BATTERIES. BIG, BRIGHT ONES. THE CASE OF AMMO WILL BE THERE. LEAVE THE LIGHTS, TAKE THE AMMO.
I'LL BE HIDDEN. WITH A RIFLE. YOU TRY ANYTHING, I'LL SHOOT.
HOW DO WE KNOW THIS AIN'T SOME SORT OF DOUBLE CROSS?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED, DON'T SHOW UP. I CAN DEAL THE AMMO TO THE BLACK MASK GANG. THEY'RE CLOSE TO YOUR SOUTHERN BORDER, RIGHT?
OKAY. NOON TOMORROW, ADDISON SUBWAY STATION...
I'LL BE THERE.
ARE YOU SURE THE VENTRILOQUIST WILL GO HIMSELF?
HE'LL BE THERE. HE'D NEVER TRUST HIS MEN ALONE WITH THAT MUCH AMMUNITION.



OPEN IT!


WOOSH!!


THE MAGNESIUM FLARE BLINDS THEM, AND THE TEAR GAS MAKES THEM CHOKE.

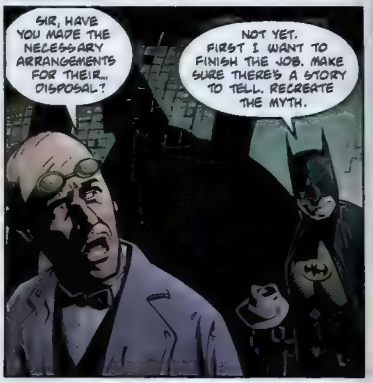
ADVANTAGE:
MINE.

BAM!
KNOCK!
NO! NOT HIM!
TIE THEM UP.
SAY MY NAME!
G-G-G-GATMAN!
SAY IT CORRECTLY!
NO! GIVE HIM BACK! YOU'LL HURT HIM!
SAY MY NAME!
BATMAN.
LOUDER.
BATMAN!

WHO'S IN CHARGE NOW?
BATMAN! BATMAN'S IN CHARGE!
HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK!
OKAY! OKAY, JUST PLEASE DON'T HURT SCARFACE!

WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO US?
YOU'LL LIVE.

WAIT! SCARFACE! DON'T TAKE SCARFACE AWAY!


SIR, HAVE YOU MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR... DISPOSAL?
NOT YET. FIRST I WANT TO FINISH THE JOB. MAKE SURE THERE'S A STORY TO TELL. RECREATE THE MYTH.

KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.
I WON'T BE LONG.

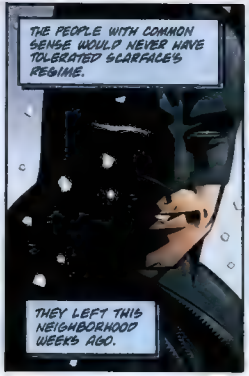
IT'S SOMETHING NEW FOR ME. GOING OUT IN THE DAY. IN COSTUME.
NOW HEAR THIS! SCARFACE IS FINISHED! THIS IS NOW TERRITORY OF THE BATMAN!
YOU MEN WITH THE RIFLES? YOUR FRIENDS AREN'T COMING BACK! SURRENDER! OR FACE MY WRATH!
STUFF THAT!
THE FIRST ONE'S A BAD SHOT.
PAT
THAT DOESN'T MAKE FOR A GOOD STORY. I HOPE THE OTHERS ARE BETTER.
BLAM!
PIFF!

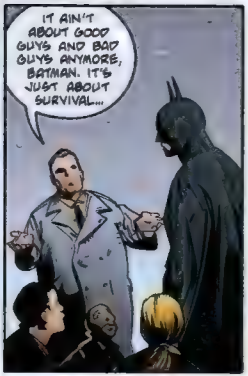
BOOM!
BLAM!
HE CAN'T BE KILLED!
HE AIN'T HUMAN!
MY MOST DANGEROUS HUNCH PROVED CORRECT--NO ONE HAD ARMOR PIERCING SHELLS. HAD I BEEN WRONG, I'D BE DEAD.
BUT IT WAS ONLY LOGICAL THAT THE VENTRILOQUIST WOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN ONE MAN MORE FIREPOWER THAN ANOTHER.
I DON'T MAKE A MOVE TO STOP THEM.
I KNOW THEY'LL LEAVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND SPREAD THE STORY: THE BATMAN IS BACK, HE'S ANGRY AND HE CAN'T BE KILLED.
LORD BATMAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO NOW?
YES. TELL US. TELL US WHAT TO DO.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO. YOU'RE FREE. FREE TO DO AS YOU CHOOSE.
BUT WHO WILL GIVE US OUR RATIONS?
YOU DON'T NEED ANYONE TO GIVE YOU RATIONS!
YOU CAN KEEP WHATEVER YOU FIND NOW. ALL OF IT.

NO. WE HAVE TO GIVE IT TO YOU. AS TRIBUTE. AND THEN YOU GIVE US WHAT WE NEED. THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
I DON'T NEED TRIBUTE. I DON'T WANT ANY. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I GOT RID OF YOUR OPPRESSORS. THE BAD MEN.

BUT THEY WEREN'T BAD MEN. THEY PROTECTED US. TOOK CARE OF US.
AND RHINO'S NOT A BAD MAN. HE MADE SURE NO ONE GOT MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
PLEASE, TELL US WHAT TO DO.

NOW I REALIZE WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE.
THE DESTITUTE. FORMER WELFARE RECIPIENTS. THE "INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGED." THE UNMOTIVATED.

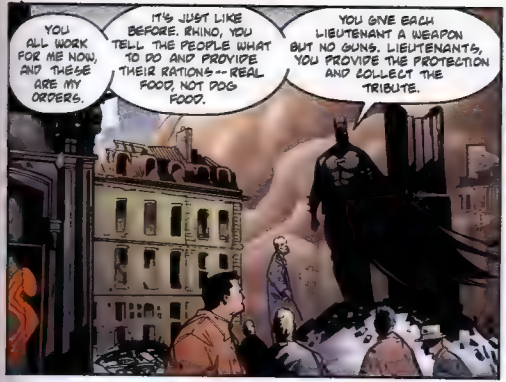

THE PEOPLE WITH COMMON SENSE WOULD NEVER HAVE TOLERATED SCARFACE'S REGIME.
THEY LEFT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD WEEKS AGO.

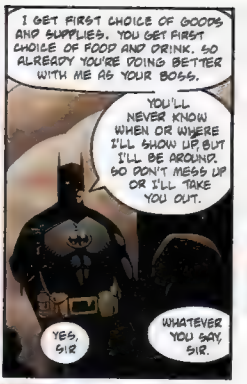

IT AIN'T ABOUT GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS ANYMORE, BATMAN. IT'S JUST ABOUT SURVIVAL...

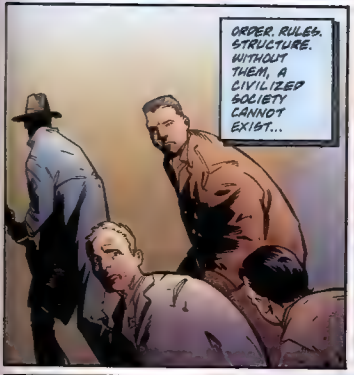
MAYBE RHINO'S RIGHT. MAYBE TRADITIONAL GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS AREN'T PART OF THE LANGUAGE.

WHATEVER YOU WERE TOLD TO DO THIS MORNING? KEEP DOING IT. I'LL BE BACK, RHINO.

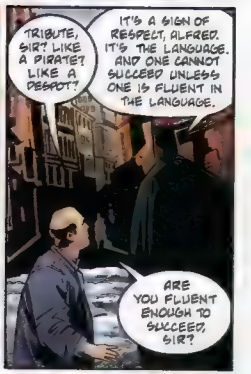
YOU HAVE A CHOICE.
YOU CAN WORK FOR ME OR YOU CAN GO WITH HIM.
WHERE'S HE GOING?
HELL
BUT YOU SAID--
SHUT UP! WHO'S IN CHARGE?
PUSH
YOU ARE. B-B-BATMAN'S IN CHARGE!
EEOWW! STOP! YOU ARE!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M IN CHARGE! AND DON'T EVER FORGET IT!
CUT 'EM LOOSE.
SIR?
DO IT.
ANYBODY WANT TO TRY TO TAKE ME DOWN? NOW'S YOUR CHANCE.
NO, SIR. YOU'RE THE BOSS.


YOU ALL WORK FOR ME NOW, AND THESE ARE MY ORDERS.
IT'S JUST LIKE BEFORE. RHINO, YOU TELL THE PEOPLE WHAT TO DO AND PROVIDE THEIR RATIONS--REAL FOOD, NOT DOG FOOD.
YOU GIVE EACH LIEUTENANT A WEAPON BUT NO GUNS. LIEUTENANTS, YOU PROVIDE THE PROTECTION AND COLLECT THE TRIBUTE.

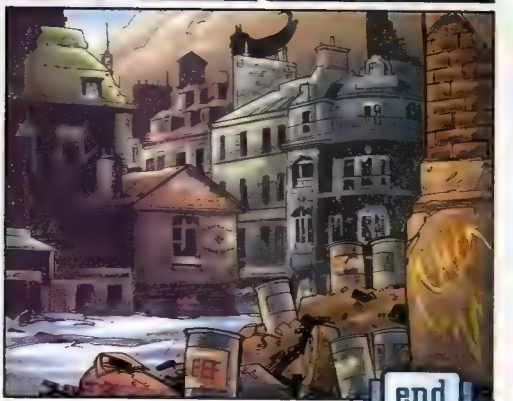

I GET FIRST CHOICE OF GOODS AND SUPPLIES. YOU GET FIRST CHOICE OF FOOD AND DRINK. SO ALREADY YOU'RE DOING BETTER WITH ME AS YOUR BOSS.
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHEN OR WHERE I'LL SHOW UP, BUT I'LL BE AROUND. SO DON'T MESS UP OR I'LL TAKE YOU OUT.
YES, SIR
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SIR.


ORDER. RULES. STRUCTURE. WITHOUT THEM, A CIVILIZED SOCIETY CANNOT EXIST...

--FREEDOM DETERIORATES INTO ANARCHY.


TRIBUTE, SIR? LIKE A PIRATE? LIKE A DESPOT?
IT'S A SIGN OF RESPECT, ALFRED. IT'S THE LANGUAGE. AND ONE CANNOT SUCCEED UNLESS ONE IS FLUENT IN THE LANGUAGE.
ARE YOU FLUENT ENOUGH TO SUCCEED, SIR?

NOT YET. BUT I INTEND TO BE.


end

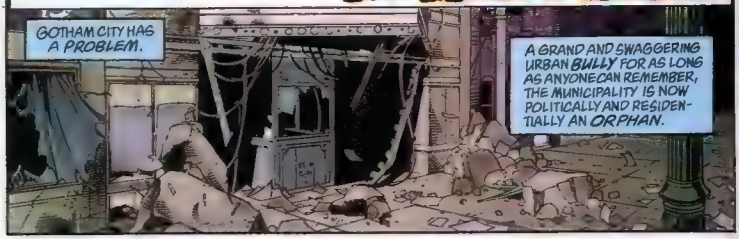
LOOK FOR THESE
OTHER COLLECTIONS
FROM DC COMICS THAT PAVED
THE WAY TO NO MAN'S LAND:

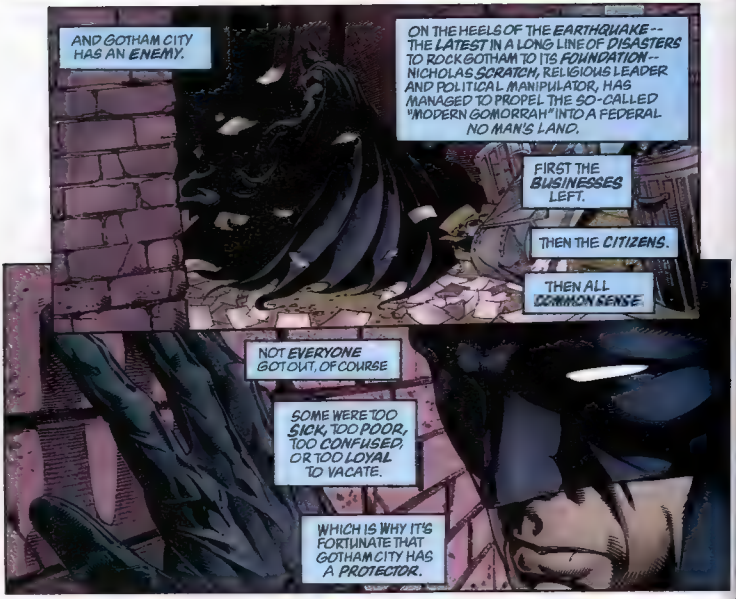
BATMAN: CONTAGION
Various writers and artists

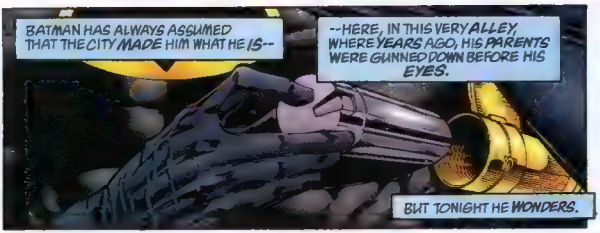
BATMAN: LEGACY
Various writers and artists

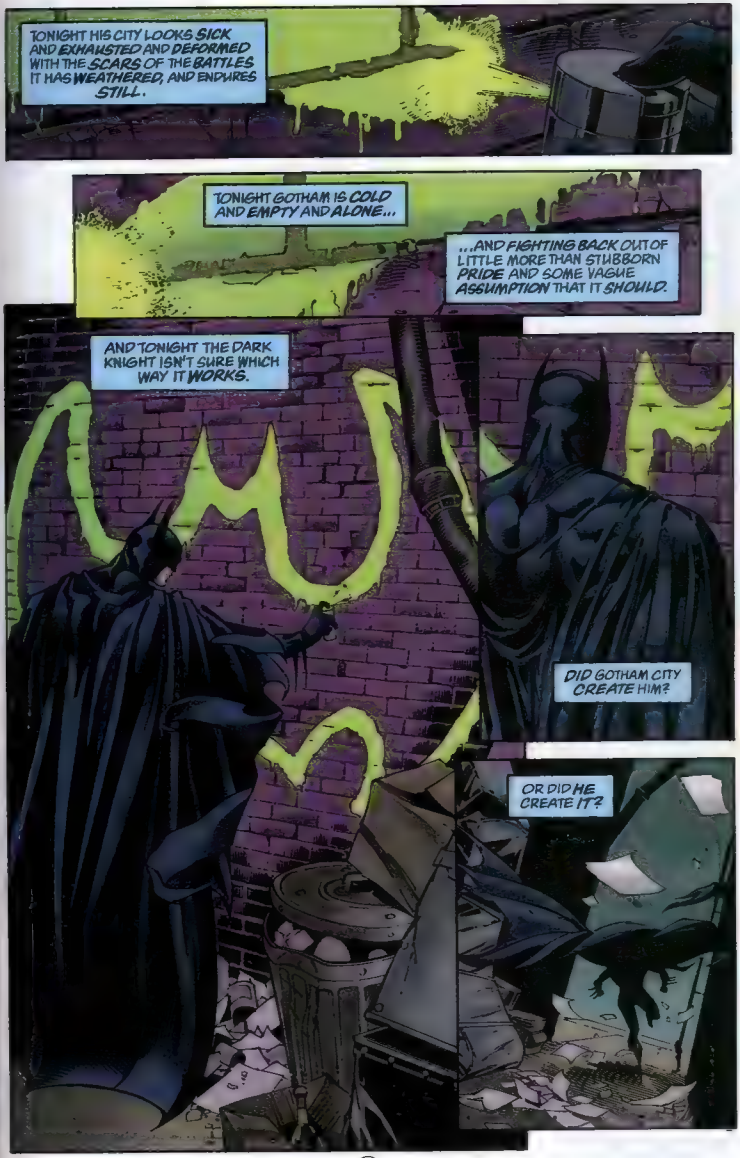
BATMAN: CATACLYSM
Various writers and artists

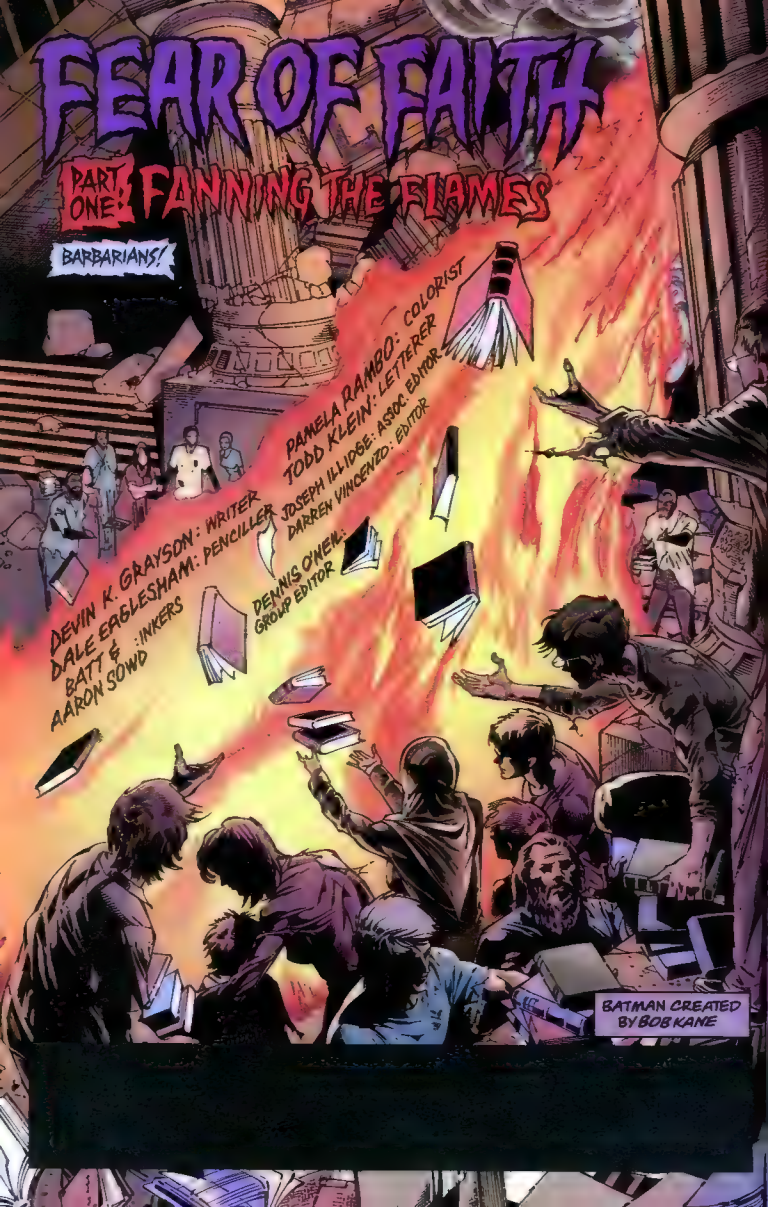
...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**





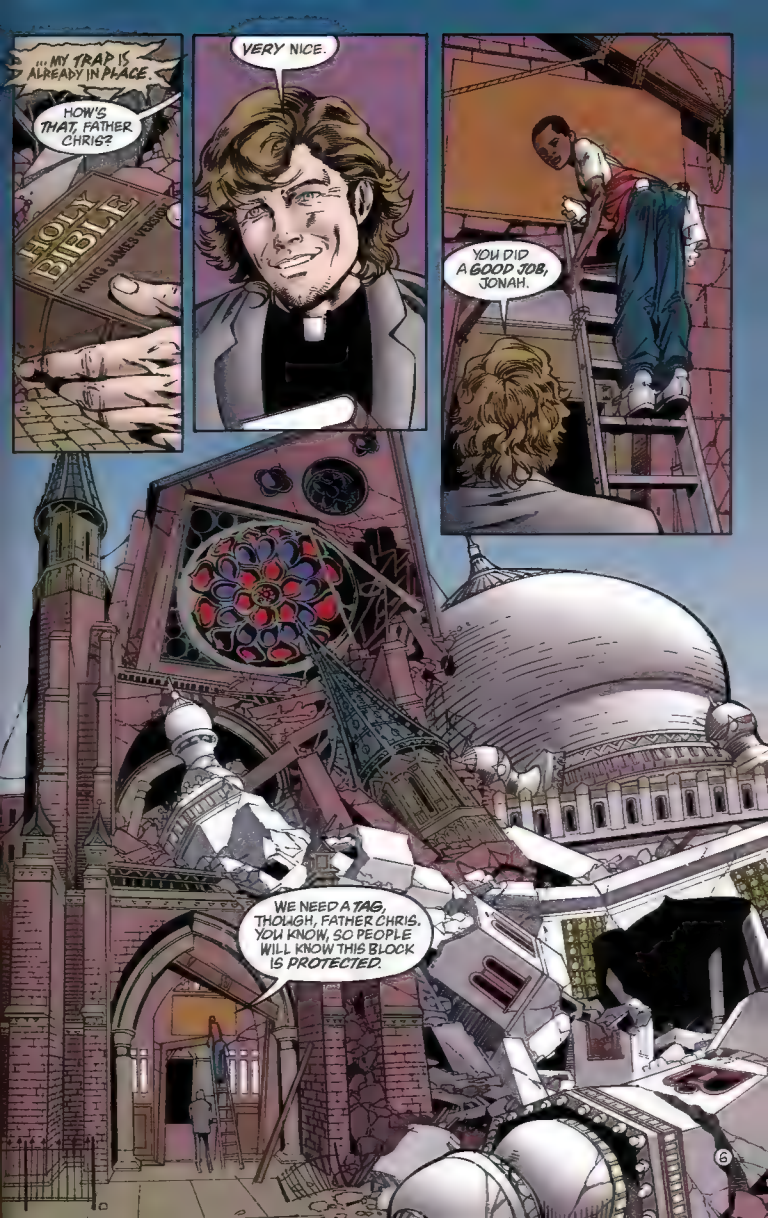



TONIGHT HIS CITY LOOKS SICK AND EXHAUSTED AND DEFORMED WITH THE SCARS OF THE BATTLES IT HAS WEATHERED, AND ENDURES STILL.
TONIGHT GOTHAM IS COLD AND EMPTY AND ALONE...
...AND FIGHTING BACK OUT OF LITTLE MORE THAN STUBBORN PRIDE AND SOME VAGUE ASSUMPTION THAT IT SHOULD.
AND TONIGHT THE DARK KNIGHT ISN'T SURE WHICH WAY IT WORKS.
DID GOTHAM CITY CREATE HIM?
OR DID HE CREATE IT?

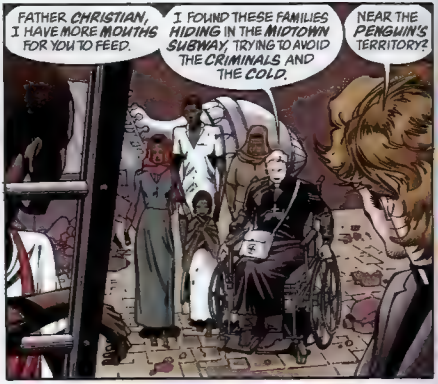

FEAR OF FAITH
PART ONE: FANNING THE FLAMES
BARBARIANS!
DEVIN K. GRAYSON: WRITER
DALE EAGLESHAM: PENCILLER
BATT & AARON SOWD: INKERS
PAMELA RAMBO: COLORIST
TODD KLEIN: LETTERER
JOSEPH ILLIDGE: ASSOC. EDITOR
DARREN VINCENZO: EDITOR
DENNIS O'NEIL: GROUP EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

I HAVE NEVER KNOWN A COLD SO BITTER THAT IT MUST BE STAVED OFF WITH BOOKS.
GOTHAM IS INSANE...
...AND TERRIFIED!
ONE CAN ONLY WONDER WHAT KEEPS THIS CONDEMNED MONSTROSITY FROM GIVING UP ALTOGETHER.

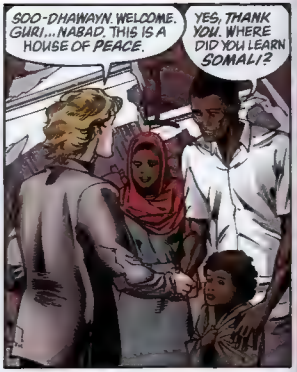
HM. ONE BOOK EVEN THESE DESPERATE PEONS WILL NOT BURN...
AHHH... OF COURSE...
HOLY BIBLE
5


...MY TRAP IS ALREADY IN PLACE.
HOW'S THAT, FATHER CHRIS?
HOLY BIBLE
KING JAMES VERSION
VERY NICE.
YOU DID A GOOD JOB, JONAH.
WE NEED A TAG, THOUGH, FATHER CHRIS. YOU KNOW, SO PEOPLE WILL KNOW THIS BLOCK IS PROTECTED.

WELL, REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD THE POLICE, JONAH. WE'RE HERE TO WELCOME PEOPLE IN, NOT TO CHASE THEM OFF.
I KNOW. BUT WE STILL NEED A TAG.


FATHER CHRISTIAN, I HAVE MORE MOUTHS FOR YOU TO FEED.
I FOUND THESE FAMILIES HIDING IN THE MIDTOWN SUBWAY, TRYING TO AVOID THE CRIMINALS AND THE COLD.
NEAR THE PENGUIN'S TERRITORY?

TOO NEAR, YES.
THEY'RE SOMOLIAN REFUGEES--SUNNI MUSLIMS. BUT GOWON, HERE, SPEAKS ENGLISH, AND FEMI KNOWS SOME ITALIAN.


SOO-DHAWAYN. WELCOME. GURI... NABAD. THIS IS A HOUSE OF PEACE.
YES, THANK YOU. WHERE DID YOU LEARN SOMALI?

YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME, CHRISTIAN...
PLEASE, COME IN. I SPENT SOME TIME ABROAD, STUDYING...

7

HAND THE BLANKETS OVER, LADY.
LOOK AT YOU TWO. WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
THIS ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD, YOU KNOW. IT'S JUST A MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY.
OH, THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, OLD HAG. THIS IS THE FUTURE.
WORLD'S ALWAYS BEEN THIS UGLY, BUT NOW YOU OLD NINNIES CAN FINALLY SEE IT.
THAT'S THE TRUTH, MAN. THAT'S THE TRUTH. SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST, MAN. WORD.
YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU SHOULDA LEFT.
GOTHAM CITY HAS BEEN MY HOME FOR OVER FIFTY-SIX YEARS. I WILL NOT BE PUSHED OUT BY A ZEALOUS HYPOCRITE LIKE SCRATCH.
AND MY HOME IS STILL PROTECTED. THIS BLOCK IS ORGANIZED.
THIS AIN'T NO BAT-TAG. YOU GOT A FAKE BAT-TAG. BLOCK'S PROTECTED BY A FAKE BAT!
PROTECTED, HUH? SO WHO'S GONNA PROTECT YOU FROM THIS?
I'VE BEEN MISTAKEN FOR MANY THINGS--

HUH!
WHOA!
--AN AMATEUR--
UNGH!
CRAACK!
--AN INTERLOPER--
-- BUT NEVER A FAKE.
FORGET THIS!
NNNNG...
YOU NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION, MRS. STEINBERG. I'M SORRY I DIDN'T GET HERE SOONER.
NO, NO, DEAR, I'M FINE. JUST NEED TO GET THESE BLANKETS TO THE TWO YOUNG LADIES IN MY BUILDING.
THEY'RE SO SKINNY, THE POOR DEARS, AND SO SICK.
THOSE "YOUNG LADIES" ARE CRACK-ADDICTED PROSTITUTES, AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNLESS THEY COME TOO. THEY'RE DEPENDING ON ME.
AND BESIDES--
9

"NO ONE WILL BE ADDICTED TO ANYTHING FOR MUCH LONGER. SUPPLIES ARE SIMPLY TOO HARD TO FIND."
PCT
COME ON! JUST 'CAUSE BLACK MASK WENT OVER THE DEEP END, IT DON'T MEAN WE GOTTA LAY DOWN AND DIE. SO HE MADE US SCAR OURSELVES. BUT WE GOT OUT BEFORE HE GOT US KILLED.
WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE LOOT WE'RE GONNA PULL OUTTA HERE.
I DUNNO, LEO. PLACE LOOKS PRETTY CLEANED OUT.
YEAH, THEY EVEN TOOK THE PENS BEFORE THEY LEFT.
YOU JUST GOTTA KNOW WHERE TO LOOK. TRUST ME.
THESE PIGS HAULED OUTTA HERE ON BLACK MONDAY FASTER'N THE TOKYO BULLET TRAIN.
EVEN THOSE WHO WERE STAYIN' HOT-FOOTED IT DOWN TO THE MAIN HQ BUT QUICK.
MORGUE
P.D. MORGUE
CERTAIN THINGS YOU JUST DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IN CERTAIN PREDICAMENTS, AM I RIGHT?
10

WELCOME TO AMMO CENTRAL!
:COUGH: :COUGH:
FOR THE LOVE OF GAWD, LEO!
IT SMELLS AWFUL IN HERE!
MAN! LOOK, I DON'T SEE ANY BULLETS HERE, LET'S GO!
OKAY, SO IT STINKS. THAT'S 'CAUSE WE GOT DEAD PEOPLE HERE
STINKS? I'M GONNA VOMIT HERE!
BUT WHAT D'YOU THINK THESE PEOPLE DIED OF, MORONS?
WHAT ARE YOU DOIN', LEO? GEEZ!
WE'LL HAVE TO RE FORGE THEM, BUT I KNOW SOME ONE WHO CAN SCORE US SOME GUN POWDER. BATTLE'S HALF OVER.
HEY, THESE AIN'T EVEN LOCKED.
BETTER TO SMELL BAD AND BE ALIVE THAN SMELL GOOD AND HAVE NO BULLETS, RIGHT?
I'M GONNA GO CHECK THE AUTOPSY ROOM.
11

UH...UH, LEO?
COME ON, MIKEY. GET BUSY, WOULDJA?
LEO, THIS AIN'T RIGHT. THESE PEOPLE ARE DEAD. THEY SHOULD BE BURIED.
YOU'LL PUT A BULLET IN A MAN, MIKEY, BUT YOU WON'T TAKE ONE OUT OF 'IM?
THAT'S...DIFFERENT. I DON'T SHOOT NOBODY UNLESS I HAVE TO. I JUST...
THIS AIN'T RIGHT, LEO, THIS AIN'T RIGHT.
CERTAIN THINGS, YOU JUST DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IN CERTAIN PREDICAMENTS, MIKEY.
KLICK
YOU SCARED? YOU SCARED-A' ME, MIKEY?
YOU ARE, AND YOU KNOW WHY?

BECAUSE YOU FREAKIN' THINK I HAVE BULLETS, THAT'S WHY!
MORON.
WH-WHO--?
13

OUFF!
THWAK!
AAAUGH!
THUNK!
ENGH!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN THE PD?
B-BULLETS. WE'RE GRAVE-ROBBIN' FOR USED BULLETS.
BUT I DIDN'T DO IT, HONEST. IT AIN'T RIGHT WHAT THEY'RE DOIN', WITH THINGS SO BAD.
IF MY MOTHER, GOD REST HER SOUL, HAD LIVED TO SEE THE CITY LIKE THIS...
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME WAY TO SET THINGS RIGHT. THERE'S GOTTA BE HOPE FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME! RIGHT? RIGHT?

HEY, ISN'T THAT--

--A FORMER BLACK MASKER, YES. HE'S PART OF A SPLINTER GROUP.
BUT I DON'T WANT HIM TOUCHED. NOT YET.

SO YOU HAVE A PLAN, HUH?
I HAVE... SOMETHING I NEED TO KNOW...
15

...ABSOLUTELY NOT! THEY'RE NOT THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO LEARN!
WE COULDA NUKED THE LOBOYS AND THE DEMONZ AND THE WRECKERS WOULD STILL THINK THEY WERE HOT ENOUGH TO MAKE A RUN AT US!
AND, HELL, THE XHOSA ARE PROBABLY ON THEIR WAY OVER RIGHT NOW!
LOOK, FOLEY, JUST 'CAUSE SOME GANG-BRATS ARE STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK THEY CAN TAKE US, IT DON'T MEAN THEY ACTUALLY CAN.
AGREED. BUT WHY WAIT FOR 'EM TO COME TRY?
WHAT ARE WE GONNA BE, COMMISSIONER? A BUNCH OF SOLDIERS OR A BUNCH OF CORPSES?
CCPD
NEITHER.
WE'RE COPS, DAMMIT! NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS.
COPS!
16

WHAT IS IT SARAH?
I'M SORRY, I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE.
THAT'S OKAY. HOW'S THE MOOD IN THERE?
THEY'RE QUIETING DOWN, JIM. AS YOU KNOW, NOBODY GOES OUT AT NIGHT ANYMORE.
NOW WHAT'S EATING YOU TONIGHT?
WHAT'S GOING TO SUSTAIN US, SARAH? IS IT STUBBORNNESS? PURE, UNADULTERATED STUBBORNNESS?
BECAUSE IF IT IS, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? ENCOURAGE IT IN OTHERS, OR BE MORE STUBBORN STILL?
JIM, YOU CAN'T KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF LIKE THIS. WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED WE WON'T GIVE UP. NOW LET'S DECIDE WE WON'T BURN OUT, EITHER.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. WHO'S BEING STUBBORN BESIDES YOU?
THE REFUGEE CENTER. FATHER CHRISTIAN SOUNDER AND HIS DAMN ARK PROJECT REFUGEE CENTER!
17

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THEY WERE DOING GOOD WORK OVER THERE.
THEY ARE. HE IS. FATHER CHRIS.
BUT HE'S SO STUBBORN. HE WON'T COME UNDER OUR PROTECTION.
"EVEN WHEN HE AND HIS FELLOW CLERGYMEN WERE ORDERED TO LEAD THEIR PARISHIONERS OUT OF GOTHAM, CHRIS ARGUED THAT SOME OF THEM SHOULD STAY.
"HE EVEN TRIED TO EXPLAIN HIS REASONING TO THE ARCHDIOCESE, BUT GOTHAM BELL PULLED OUT.
"AND HE WAS ALONE.
"WITH THE RELUCTANT HELP OF FATHER PAPALEO, CHRIS ROAMED THE EMPTYING STREETS, COLLECTING THE EVACUATION STRAGGLERS.
"BUT LIKE MOST HOLY MISSIONS, HIS WILL KILL THOSE WHO IT DOESN'T SAVE.
"HE REFUSES TO LET HIS CENTER COME UNDER THE PROTECTION OF ANYONE. SAYS IT WOULD REMIND HIS REFUGEES OF A POLICE-STATE."
IS THAT WHAT WE ARE?
18

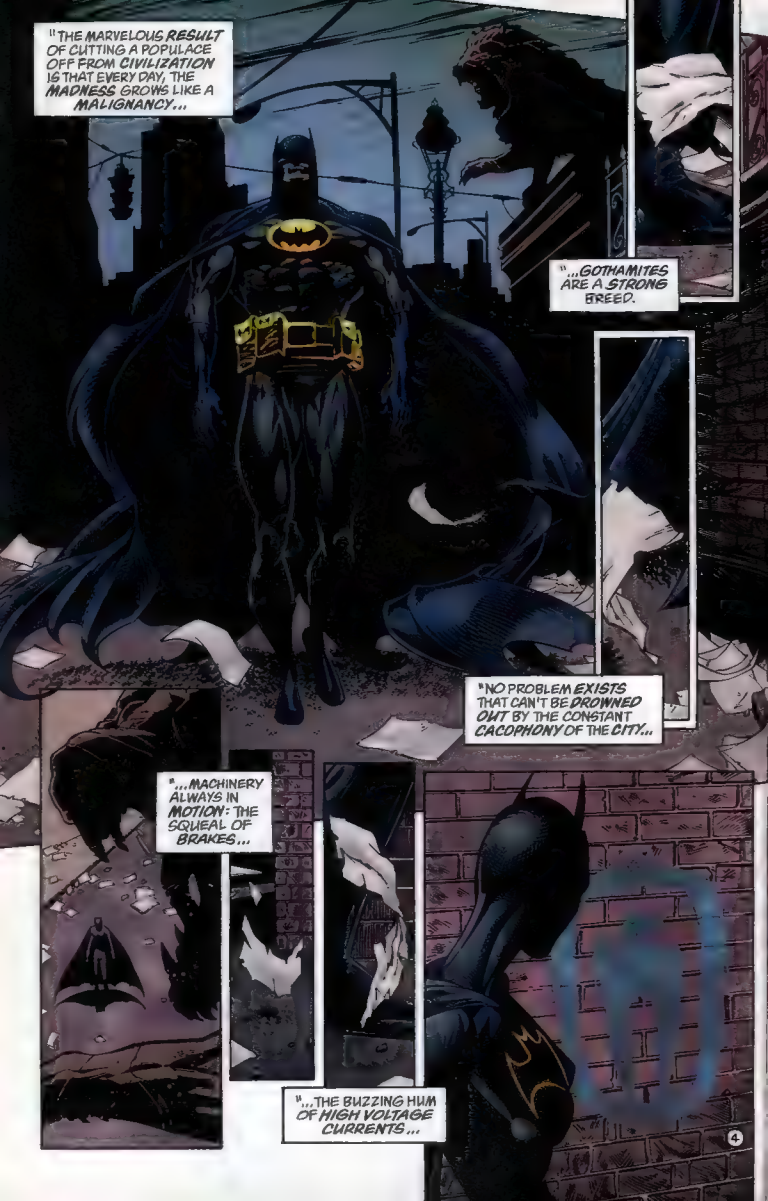
FEAR IS A CHEMICAL PROCESS THAT HAS A FITTING AND LOGICAL PLACE IN THE SCIENCE OF BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION.
BUT TO STUDY ONLY THE SCIENCE OF FEAR IS TO MISS THE FANTASTIC FOOTHOLD IT HAS IN THE DOORWAY OF THE IRRATIONAL.
WELCOME TO THE ARK PROTECT REFUGEE CENTER!
THAT'S--
AS LIVING BEINGS, IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE THAT WE SHOULD FEAR PAIN AND DEATH.
19

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO--
--SCARECROW!
OUR DEEP-ROOTED FEAR OF ONE ANOTHER, HOWEVER, IS A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN RATIONALLY.
NNGH!
ARE WE TRULY, AS A SPECIES, INHERENTLY MISTRUSTFUL AND UNKIND?
WHATEVER YOU'RE UP TO, I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH IT!
OR HAVE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF EVOLUTIONARY CODING LEFT US JUSTIFIABLY COMPETITIVE AND AGGRESSIVE?
STOP! I WON'T ALLOW VIOLENCE IN HERE!
IS IT TRULY THE UNKNOWN NATURE OF OUR NEIGHBOR THAT TERRIFIES US SO...
...OR IS IT, RATHER, THE SECRETLY KNOWN NATURE OF OURSELVES?
HUNTRESS! CONTROL YOURSELF!
YOU--DON'T UNDERSTAND--WHO HE IS!
20

I'VE GOT HER.
YOU KNOW THIS WOMAN?
I HAVE HEARD HER CONFESSIONS --
--AND I REMIND HER NOW THAT SHE IS IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE ANOTHER.
FOR YEARS I HAVE BEEN LEARNING TO CONTROL AND MANIPULATE FEAR.
LET GO OF ME! THAT MAN CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO STAY HERE!
I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS MAN HAS DONE BAD THINGS--
HE'S KILLED PEOPLE! DON'T YOU UNDER--
AND I CONFESS THAT AT THE HEART OF IT WAS THE DESIRE TO ERADICATE FEAR FROM MY OWN LIFE.
THIS IS A PLACE OF SANCTUARY.
GOTHAM IS NO LONGER BLACK AND WHITE.
IF INDEED IT EVER WAS.
PERHAPS IT IS TIME THAT YOU LOOKED MORE DEEPLY INTO YOUR OWN SOUL.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I FINALLY DISCOVERED?
THAT MONSTER IS A THREAT TO EVERYTHING YOU'RE TRYING TO DO HERE.
I CONFESS THAT MY OWN MORALITY HAS AT TIMES BEEN QUESTIONABLE, BUT I DO KNOW THE GOOD GUYS FROM THE BAD GUYS.
THOUGH IT IS SIMPLE TO BRING ON, YOU CANNOT ESCAPE FROM FEAR. FOR FEAR IS NOT A DELUSION.
YOU ARE A SENTIENT MORTAL CONDEMNED TO DIE, AND TIME IS AGAINST YOU.
AND SOMEDAY YOU WILL BE FORCED TO EMBRACE FEAR FOR THE QUIET AND MEANINGLESS TRUTH THAT IT IS.
CONSIDER THIS A PROPHECY. AND CONSIDER ME THE PROPHET.
DO YOU? ARE YOU SURE?
TO BE CONTINUED!

FEAR OF FAITH
PART TWO:
"TO SERVE AND PROTECT"
TOMATO SOUP
RATS!
DEAR LORD!
NEW!
THE FOOD! IT'S--
AAAAA!
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE
DEVIN K. GRAYSON WRITER
DALE EAGLESHAM PENCILLER
SEAN PARSONS INKER
PAM RAMBO COLORIST
TODD KLEIN LETTERER
JOSEPH ILLIDGE ASSOC. EDITOR
DARREN VINCENZO EDITOR
DENNIS O'NEIL GROUP EDITOR
ORCHARDS

FATHER, GIVE ME STRENGTH...
THAT'S ALMOST ALL OF OUR FOOD SUPPLY, ISN'T IT?
DEAR ME.
I'VE IMAGINED THAT OUR UNEXPECTED ABILITY TO MAINTAIN PEACE HERE WAS DUE, IN PART, TO KEEPING EVERYONE WELL FED. BUT NOW...
CAN WE SPARE ANY WATER? IF I DOUSE THEM, MAYBE WE CAN STILL SAVE A FEW CANS!
I SUPPOSE THIS SORT OF CRISIS COULD LEAD TO THE WORST KIND OF HUMAN UGLINESS. THESE PEOPLE HERE, PEOPLE WHO NORMALLY WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT WITHIN TEN FEET OF ONE ANOTHER--
--THEY'RE ALL DEPENDING ON YOU TO PROVIDE FOR THEM, AREN'T THEY?
HERE! YOU CAN HAVE MY RATION, FATHER CHRIS!
OF COURSE, THERE IS SOMEWHERE YOU CAN GO TO GET MORE SUPPLIES, BUT--
--NO, NO. A MAN IN YOUR POSITION MUST ALWAYS PUT MORALITY BEFORE EVEN SURVIVAL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN MR. CRANE? DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE COULD GET MORE FOOD?
NO, IT'S NO GOOD. THERE WILL BE FEASTS IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, WILL THERE NOT?
I'M SURE ALL THESE PEOPLE YOU'VE GATHERED HERE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THAT MUST SATIATE THEIR HUNGER PANGS.
YOU TRIED YOUR BEST, FATHER CHRISTIAN. THEY'LL UNDERSTAND.
3


"THE MARVELOUS RESULT OF CUTTING A POPULACE OFF FROM CIVILIZATION IS THAT EVERY DAY, THE MADNESS GROWS LIKE A MALIGNANCY...
"...GOTHAMITES ARE A STRONG BREED.
"NO PROBLEM EXISTS THAT CAN'T BE DROWNED OUT BY THE CONSTANT CACOPHONY OF THE CITY...
"...MACHINERY ALWAYS IN MOTION: THE SQUEAL OF BRAKES...
"...THE BUZZING HUM OF HIGH VOLTAGE CURRENTS...

"...THE NEVER-ENDING MURMUR OF HUMAN VOICES SPEWING DISCONTENT IN EVERY TONGUE--"
...'CAUSA PEOPLE LIKE YOU, YA LOUSY RAT!
THAT'S WHY WE BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE WHOLE FRICKIN' WORLD.
HE'S GOIN' CRAZY! GET 'IM OFFA ME!
GRUSKIN! THAT'S ENOUGH!
DON'T LOSE YOUR GRIP, GRUSKIN! STAY IN THE GAME!
"--THESE THINGS THAT WOULD DRIVE MOST FOLKS TO DISTRACTION KEEP CITY PEOPLE SANE."
WHAT ARE WE DOIN' HERE, JIM? WHAT ARE WE DOIN'? I WANNA GET OUT!
WE'RE CRAZY TO HAVE STAYED! THIS IS CRAZY, CRAZY...
DON'T GIVE UP ON ME, BILL. NEVER GIVE UP.
"THEIR MEAGER, PERSONAL TROUBLES ARE LOST IN THE SWIRLING FLOTSAM OF THE ENTIRE, TEEMING RACE..."
5

"DO YOU UNDERSTAND? BECAUSE, ON THE OTHER HAND--"
BUT PLEASE FORGIVE MY TENDENCY TOWARDS VERBOSE ORATION. THE SITUATION IS SIMPLE.
-- IF YOU SHUN THE CITIZENRY, CLOAK THE NIGHTS IN SILENCE, YOU HAVE A FISTFUL OF PARANOID, FRIGHTENED OUTCASTS READY TO SHOOT GUNS JUST TO HEAR THEM GO OFF.
THIS IS THE TIME BOMB I AM TRYING TO AVERT WHEN I ASK YOU TO HOLD SUCH VILE PARAPHERNALIA TO YOUR CHEST.
YOU REQUIRE FOOD. I REQUIRE A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE MY SURPLUS ARSENAL.
RIFLES, GRENADES, GUN POWDER, ET CETERA. CURRENTLY THE GREATEST SUPPLY OF WEAPONRY GOTHAM HAS TO OFFER.
I CAN'T KEEP THEM HERE FOR FEAR OF ATTRACTING THE ATTENTION OF CERTAIN WINGED RODENTS.
YOU, HOWEVER, HAVE TWO ADVANTAGES THAT MAKE YOU THE PERFECT CONCEALER.

IN ADDITION TO HAVING THE UNUSED FALLOUT SHELTER UNDER YOUR LITTLE CATHEDRAL--
--YOU HAVE BATMAN'S TRUST, FATHER SOUNDER. HE WOULD NEVER THINK TO INVESTIGATE YOUR TERRITORY.
"HE THAT HATH TWO COATS, LET HIM IMPART TO HIM THAT HATH NONE; AND HE THAT HATH MEAT, LET HIM DO LIKEWISE."
"DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES."
"A LITTLE THAT A RIGHTEOUS MAN HATH IS BETTER THAN THE RICHES OF MANY WICKED."
"THERE ARE SEVERAL GOOD PROTECTIONS AGAINST TEMPTATION, BUT THE SUREST IS COWARDICE."
"GIVE TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH OF THEE; AND OF HIM THAT TAKETH AWAY THY GOODS ASK THEM NOT AGAIN."
LISTEN, FATHER, THIS IS RAPIDLY GROWING TEDIOUS.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR PREDICAMENT, AND SO WILL MAKE THIS EASIER ON YOU:
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE. TAKE THE WEAPONS OR I'LL SIMPLY HAVE YOU SHOT AND HIDE THEM IN THE REFUGEE CENTER'S BOMB SHELTER MYSELF.
CONSIDER THE FOOD AND MEDICINE A GIFT...
7

"...OF CHARITY."
GO! GO! FAST! RUN FOR IT!
STOP HIM! GET HIM!
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
AND I'M WATCHING THE BLACKMASKER.
WHY DOESN'T HIS PRESENCE HERE TROUBLE YOU?
HE'S JUST A LACKEY. WITHOUT BLACKMASK OR HIS SPLINTER PACK TO ANSWER TO, HE'S RELATIVELY HARMLESS.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK BLACKMASK'S CRONIES WILL COME BACK FOR HIM?
RESOURCES ARE SCARCE IN GOTHAM, ARE THEY NOT?
CAN ANYONE REALLY AFFORD TO LET ANYTHING GO?
WHY WOULD THEY BOTHER?
UNLIKE YOU HUNTRESS I HAVE BEEN INVITED TO STAY.

RED ROVER?
ESCAPE FROM GOTHAM.
AH, I SEE. NO SIGN OF FATHER CHRIS YET?
NO, HE WENT OUT TO GET MORE SUPPLIES. I AIN'T SEEN HIM SINCE--
EXCUSE ME, MIKEY.
GREETINGS, RABBI SACHAROW. WELCOME TO THE ARK PROJECT REFUGEE CENTER.
GREETINGS, FATHER PAPALEO. WE HAVE BEEN HEARING GOOD THINGS ABOUT CHRISTIAN SOUNDER'S WORK HERE.
WE HAVE OUR OWN LITTLE HUMANITY ARK HERE, YES. ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SHELTER? YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US.
I THANK YOU, BUT IT IS AGAINST TRADITION FOR US TO DWELL IN SUCH A PLACE--
HEY, UM, YOU KNOW, IF IT WOULD HELP--
--I COULD BUILD YOU GUYS KINDA LIKE, A NEIGHBORING BUILDING OR SOMETHING.
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO BE BEFORE I JOINED BLACK MASK'S GANG, YOU KNOW--A BUILDER.
MIKEY USED TO RUN WITH A BAD CROWD, BUT HE'S BEEN WORKING HARD HERE TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF.
HE SAYS BATMAN DROPPED HIM OFF, AS A SIGN OF FAITH IN REHABILITATION.
FROM BLACK MASK'S CARE TO FATHER CHRISTIAN'S...

"...YOU CERTAINLY HAVE COME A LONG WAY, HAVEN'T YOU, SON?"
YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE?
YEAH. HEARD PENGUIN STORES SURPLUS HERE.
THEN HOW COME IT AIN'T GUARDED?
'CAUSE HE DON'T KNOW NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT IT, DUMMY.
WE AIN'T GOTTA GO FISHIN' THROUGH CORPSES AGAIN, DO WE? I STILL SMELL BAD FROM THAT.
YOU ALWAYS SMELL BAD, MAN. AND I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COMIN' UP WITH NO BETTER IDEAS AT THE TIME.
HEY--HEY, D'YOU HEAR THAT?
CRK...
THE PLACE HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS, MANNY. WHAT DO YOU EXPEC--
THRUNCH!

WHAT THE--?
IT'S HAUNTED!
SLAM!
NOT HAUNTED--
--INFESTED.
MOVE IT!
IT'S BATMAN!
RUN FOR IT!
OPEN THE DOOR!
IT'S JAMMED!
THWAK!

THWAK!
WHAT IN THE--?
THWAK!
SHH. I THINK IT--
KRR-R-R-K
UNGH!
HEEEEEELP!
WHUMPF!
AIIIEEEE!
CRASH!
OOOF!
NNNNGH!
WH--?
YEAH. INFESTED.
BY BATS.

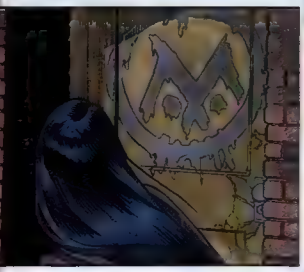
FWOOM!
FIRE!
KSSSH!
COME ON! MOVE, MOVE -- ENH! -- MOVE!
THE WINDOW! EVERYONE OUT THE WINDOW!
COUGH, COUGH
BATMAN!
CR-E-EASH!

BOOM
KA-CHINK
POK!
I'VE GOT YOU.
THE FACERS?
SAFE BUT GONE. I--
14

I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO LET THEM GET AWAY.
AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T GET ANY OF THE PENGUIN'S AMMO.
THERE WASN'T ANY TO GET. NOT IN THERE.
THAT WAS ARSON--AND NO ONE WOULD BE INSANE ENOUGH TO BURN SUPPLIES IN GOTHAM. NOT NOW.
I NOTICED THAT THERE'S A FALSE FACER AT THE ARK REFUGEE CENTER.
I HEAR YOU BROUGHT HIM THERE. IS THAT SAFE?
AS LONG AS HIS FORMER FRIENDS STAY AWAY FROM HIM, YES, I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE IT IS.
SO THIS WAS ARSON?"
"DEFINITELY--TO HIDE THAT PENGUIN'S SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN RELOCATED--
"--BUT TO WHERE?"
EVERYONE'S BEEN ASKING ABOUT YOU, FATHER.
FALLOUT SHELTER
I DROPPED THE FOOD OFF UP FRONT. FATHER PAPALEO IS MOVING IT INTO SAFER STORAGE NOW.
HOW--HOW DID YOU KNOW THIS WAS HERE? I MEAN, THE FALLOUT SHELTER?
IT'S AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN FIND WHEN YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF CRAWLING AROUND IN THE DARK.
BUT THE QUESTION YOU SHOULD BE ASKING IS HOW DID THE PENGUIN KNOW THIS WAS HERE?
TELL ME, FATHER CHRISTIAN, WAS TALKING TO THE PENGUIN LIKE MAKING A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL?
WERE YOU ANGRY?
WERE YOU SCARED...?

XXXX MOVIES

1492
LIVE



KA-BLAAM!
WHAT THE--?!
HOW MANY BATS ARE THERE?!

I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...

DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
UH, YEAH... SURE.
FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO OR DON'T MANAGE TO STEAL FROM THE PENGUIN.
I, OR ONE OF MY PEERS, WILL TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU...
THERE'S SOMETHING WE-- AND WHEN I SAY "WE" I MEAN EVERY INNOCENT SOUL IN THIS REFUGEE CENTER--NEED YOU TO DO FOR US.
...BUT YOU STAY AWAY FROM MIKEY. HE'S UNDER OUR PROTECTION NOW...
WE NEED YOU TO GO BACK TO YOUR FALSE FACER FRIENDS, TO ASK THEM FOR THEIR PROTECTION.
MINE... AND BATMAN'S
17

...AND ACTUALLY, THE REQUEST COMES DIRECTLY FROM FATHER CHRIS. HE'S TOO PROUD A MAN TO ASK YOU HIMSELF, SO I AM DOING THE HONORS...
JUST AS YOU BROKE FROM BLACK MASK, HE QUIT YOU.
HE DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU ANYMORE. YOU CANNOT RECLAIM HIM.
DON'T EVEN TRY.
FATHER CHRIS HAS EVEN GONE TO THE TROUBLE OF COLLECTING WEAPONS FOR THEM--AND AMMUNITION.
BUT THEY WOULDN'T TRUST HIM IF HE TRIED TO APPROACH THEM. OUT OF EVERYONE HERE, THEY WOULD ONLY TRUST YOU.
HE'S ONE OF OURS. DON'T FORGET THAT.
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I THOUGHT FATHER CHRIS DIDN'T WANT PROTECTION FROM ANYBODY. HE--
OH, NO, NO, NO.
HE DOESN'T WANT THE POLICE PRESENCE HERE SO AS NOT TO FRIGHTEN OUR REFUGEES AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.
AND OF COURSE, HE DOESN'T TRUST THAT HUNTRESS CHARACTER.
BUT HE NEVER INTENDED FOR US TO BE DEFENSELESS.
LISTEN, HE'S TOO NERVOUS TO ANSWER YOU DIRECTLY, BUT IF IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER...

"... ASK HIM YOURSELF."
KNOK KNOK
EXCUSE ME, FATHER CHRIS?
COME IN, MIKEY. SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND MUCH TODAY, I'VE HAD A LOT ON MY MIND.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
"ASK HIM WHETHER OR NOT HE TRULY TRUSTS THE HUNTRESS."
UM, JUST A QUESTION, REALLY.
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU DON'T TRUST THE HUNTRESS?
OH, I-- KNOW SHE MEANS WELL... BUT, YES. I SUPPOSE IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT I DO NOT COMPLETELY TRUST HER INSTINCTS.
"ASK HIM WHETHER OR NOT HE WANTS HER AS OUR GUARDIAN HERE"
SO YOU DON'T WANT HER, LIKE, GUARDING US HERE?
NO. I MADE THAT CLEAR.
"AND THEN GO AHEAD AND ASK HIM WHETHER OR NOT HE'S AFRAID."
FATHER, AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
YES, OF COURSE, MIKEY. I THINK WE'RE ALL AFRAID.
"TELL HIM YOU SPOKE WITH ME, IF YOU LIKE. TELL HIM YOU KNOW ABOUT THE GUNS -- YOU UNDERSTAND."
SEE, I UH, I SPOKE WITH THAT SCARECROW GUY, AND HE... TOLD ME ABOUT THE GUNS.
AND YOU DON'T HAFTA EXPLAIN IT ALL. I UNDERSTAND.
THANK YOU, MIKEY. I'M STILL NOT SURE IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, BUT I... THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING...
19

LEO? MANNY? YOU GUYS HERE?
IT'S MIKEY!
LEO, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS. I GOT THAT GUNPOWDER YOU BEEN LOOKIN' FOR, BUT YOU AIN'T EVEN GONNA CARE WHEN YOU SEE THE REST OF THIS STUFF.
GOOD STUFF, HUH?
'COURSE IT DON'T COME COMPLETELY FREE.
THE REFUGEE CENTER WANTS TO KINDA HIRE YOU AS, YOU KNOW, PRO--
--TECTORS...
...SOMETHING WRONG?
20

KLICK
L-LEO...?
21

KNICK
L-LEO...?
21

BLAM!
H-HELP MEEEE
TRAITOR
TO BE CONTINUED.

...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**

A LAND WITHOUT HOPE
FEAR OF FAITH
PART THREE
LIFE IN HELL
DEVIN K. GRAYSON - WRITER
DALE EAGLESHAM - PENCILLER
JAIME MENDOZA - INKER
NOELLE GIDDINGS - COLORIST
DIGITAL CHAMLEON - SEPARATOR
TODD KLEIN - LETTERER
JOSEPH ILLIDGE - ASSOC EDITOR
DARREN VINCENZO - EDITOR
DENNIS O'NEIL - GROUP EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

THIS ISN'T ANYONE'S FAULT, HUNTRESS
MIKEY WOULD BE DEAD IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN HERE SO QUICKLY.
WITHOUT MEDICAL SUPPLIES, HE WON'T MAKE IT TO MORNING

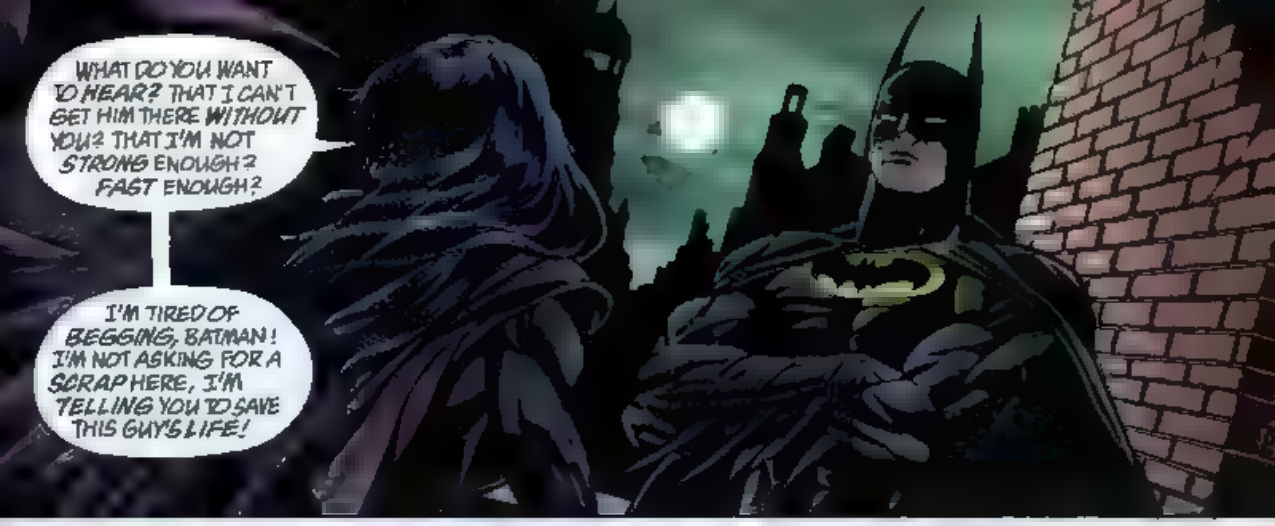
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF PRAYER, HUNTRESS
GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES, FATHER. THIS K.D NEEDS MORE THAN PRAYER IF HE'S GOING TO PULL THROUGH.
I'LL BE BACK

I WAS CERTAIN THAT THE ATTACK ON THE CENTER'S PRECIOUS MASCOT OF REFORM WOULD DRIVE THE REFUGEES FURTHER APART AND SEND THEM P NWHEEL- ING NTO DESPAIR
INSTEAD, I FEAR THAT IT HAS UNITED THEM IN A SINGLE EXPRESSION OF FAITH
THIS WILL NOT DO

YES, PRAY! PRAY TO YOUR GODS!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THEY CAN SAVE THE BOY? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THEY ANSWERED YOUR PITIFUL PETITIONS?
GOTHAM IS FORSAKEN! GOTHAM IS THE ONE PLACE WHERE NOT EVEN GOD CAN HEAR YOUR PRAYERS! SOUND FAMILIAR, MY FRIENDS?

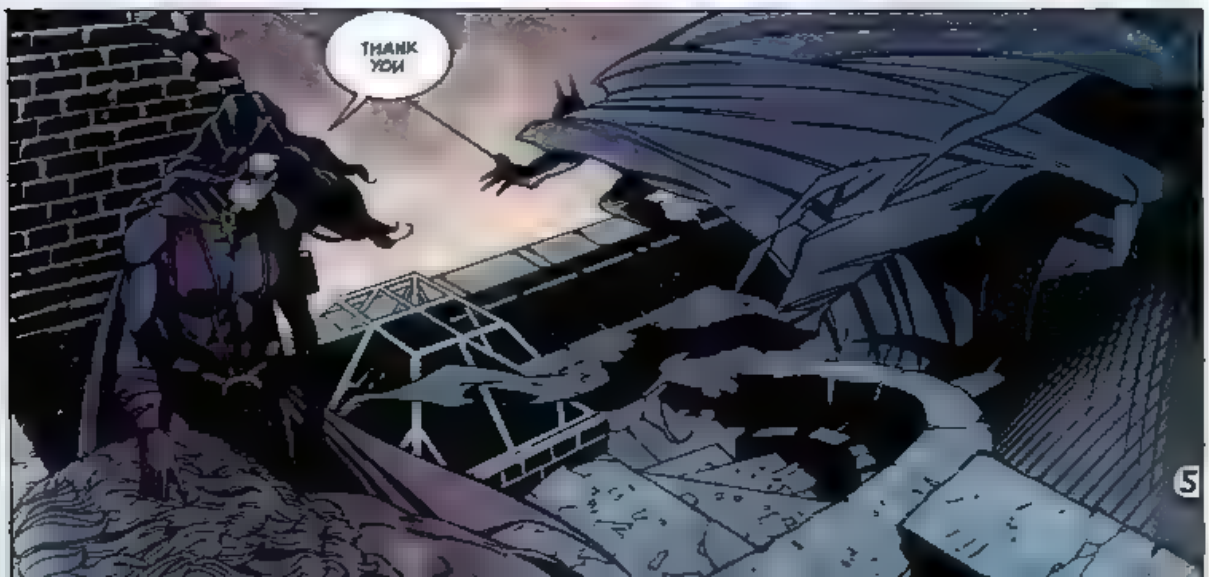
IT SHOULD! AND SO I SAY UNTO YOU ALL
WELCOME TO HELL...

NO ONE CAN SAVE YOU NOW
PLEASE I NEED YOUR HELP.
'TIS MIKEY
ONE OF THE FALSE FACERS SHOT HIM
WE PATCHED HIM UP A LITTLE AT THE CENTER, BUT HE'S GOING TO DIE IF WE DON'T GET HIM SOME REAL MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY.
THERE IS SOME WHERE YOU CAN TAKE HIM IT'S HALFWAY ACROSS TOWN, BUT AT LEAST--
NO!
NO. I CAN'T AFFORD TO GO
4


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HEAR? THAT I CAN'T GET HIM THERE WITHOUT YOU? THAT I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH? FAST ENOUGH?
I'M TIRED OF BEGGING, BATMAN! I'M NOT ASKING FOR A SCRAP HERE, I'M TELLING YOU TO SAVE THIS GUY'S LIFE!

TRUST ME.
I'VE COME A LONG WAY FOR YOU AND I'VE WORKED HARD TO BE WORTHY--MAYBE HARDER THAN YOU KNOW. AND NOW I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME TO HANDLE THINGS HERE

BRING HIM BEHIND THE CATHEDRAL

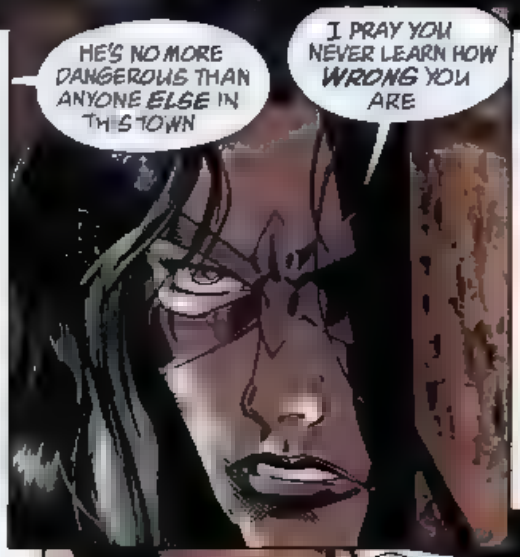

THANK YOU

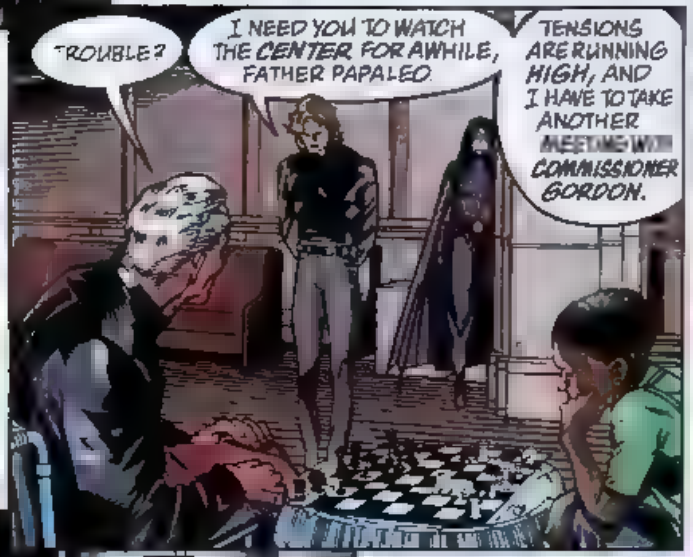
NNNGH.
QUIET DON'T TRY TO MOVE.
B-BATMAN? I GOT SHOT. LEO AND THE GUYS SHOT ME
I KNOW BE STILL
YOU CARRYIN' ME? YOU SHOULDN'T HAFTA CARRY--
ENNNH!
SO COLD...
BATMAN? I JUST--I WANT YOU TO KNOW.
I THINK--I THINK I'M GONNA DIE NOW. AND IF I DO--IF I DO WHAT I WANNA SAY IS --
...IT'S JUST THAT I'M...I'M HAPPY, YOU KNOW? SO HAPPY I GOT TO DO IT RIGHT, EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
ME. HELPIN' PEOPLE. HEH. IMAGINE THAT. MY MOM WOULD'VE BEEN SO...
THESE HAVE BEEN--THE--NNNGH-- THE BEST DAYS OF MY WHOLE LIFE.
IT'S SUCH A--G-GOTHAM..
...SUCHA BEAUTIFUL CITY...

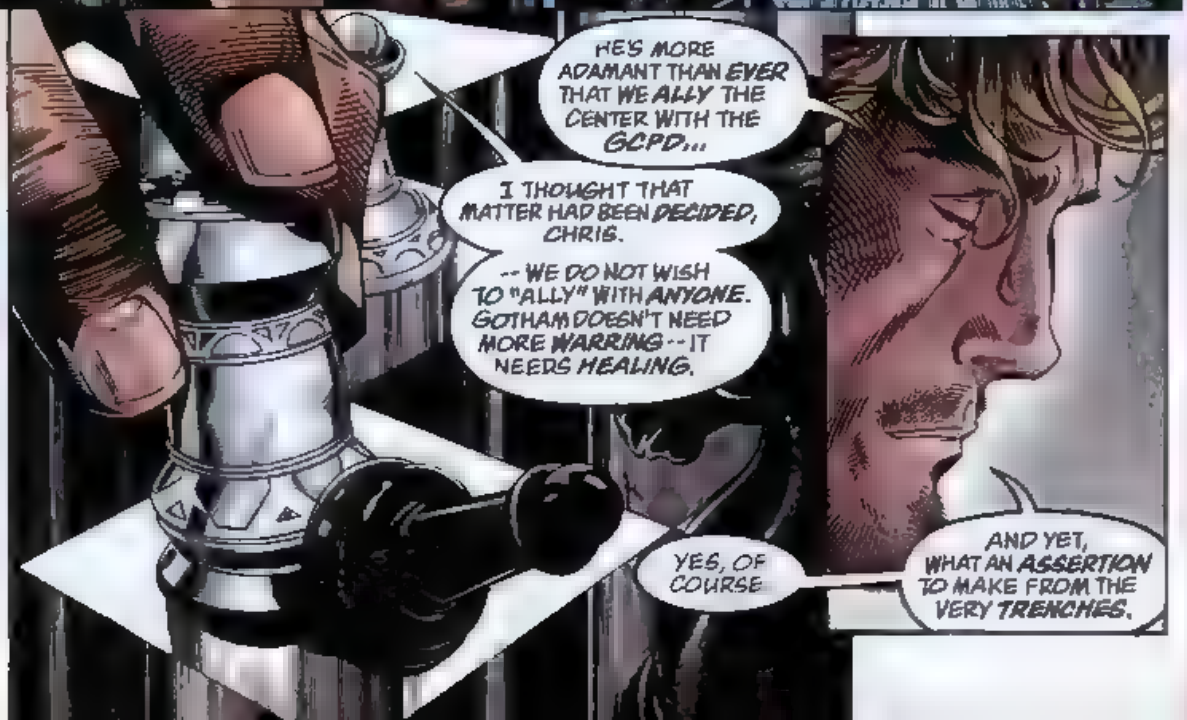
DR THOMPKINS! WE NEED -
PLEASE, RUTH. CALL ME LESLIE
LESLIE. WE COULD REALLY USE A HAND OVER AT CURTAIN FIVE. A MOTHER I DON'T THINK THE BABY IS GOING TO MAKE IT
5
4
GOD HAVE MERCY ON US. I'LL BE RIGHT WITH THEM. THANK YOU, RUTH. YOU'RE DOING A MIRACULOUS JOB--
--GIVEN THE SITUATION
--YOU?!
LESLIE
PLEASE I NEED YOUR HELP
JUST LET ME PICK UP WHATEVER MORPHINE I HAVE LEFT IN MY OFFICE AND I'LL BE RIGHT WITH--
7

MIKEY IS DEAD!
SURELY YOU KNOW THAT IN YOUR HEARTS BY NOW! AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOUR LIVES WON'T END THE SAME WAY?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT DANGERS LURK OUTSIDE OUR VERY DOOR?

YOU'RE NAIVE TO LET HIM STAY, FATHER
AND YOU'RE NAIVE TO THINK THAT I'D TURN HIM AWAY, HUNTRESS. THAT'S NOT HOW I WORK.
BESIDES, WITHOUT HIS FEAR-INDUCING CHEMICALS, SCARECROW IS JUST A MAN


HE'S NO MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THIS TOWN
I PRAY YOU NEVER LEARN HOW WRONG YOU ARE


TROUBLE?
I NEED YOU TO WATCH THE CENTER FOR AWHILE, FATHER PAPALEO.
TENSIONS ARE RUNNING HIGH, AND I HAVE TO TAKE ANOTHER MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON.


HE'S MORE ADAMANT THAN EVER THAT WE ALLY THE CENTER WITH THE GCPD...
I THOUGHT THAT MATTER HAD BEEN DECIDED, CHRIS.
-- WE DO NOT WISH TO "ALLY" WITH ANYONE. GOTHAM DOESN'T NEED MORE WARRING -- IT NEEDS HEALING.
YES, OF COURSE
AND YET, WHAT AN ASSERTION TO MAKE FROM THE VERY TRENCHES.

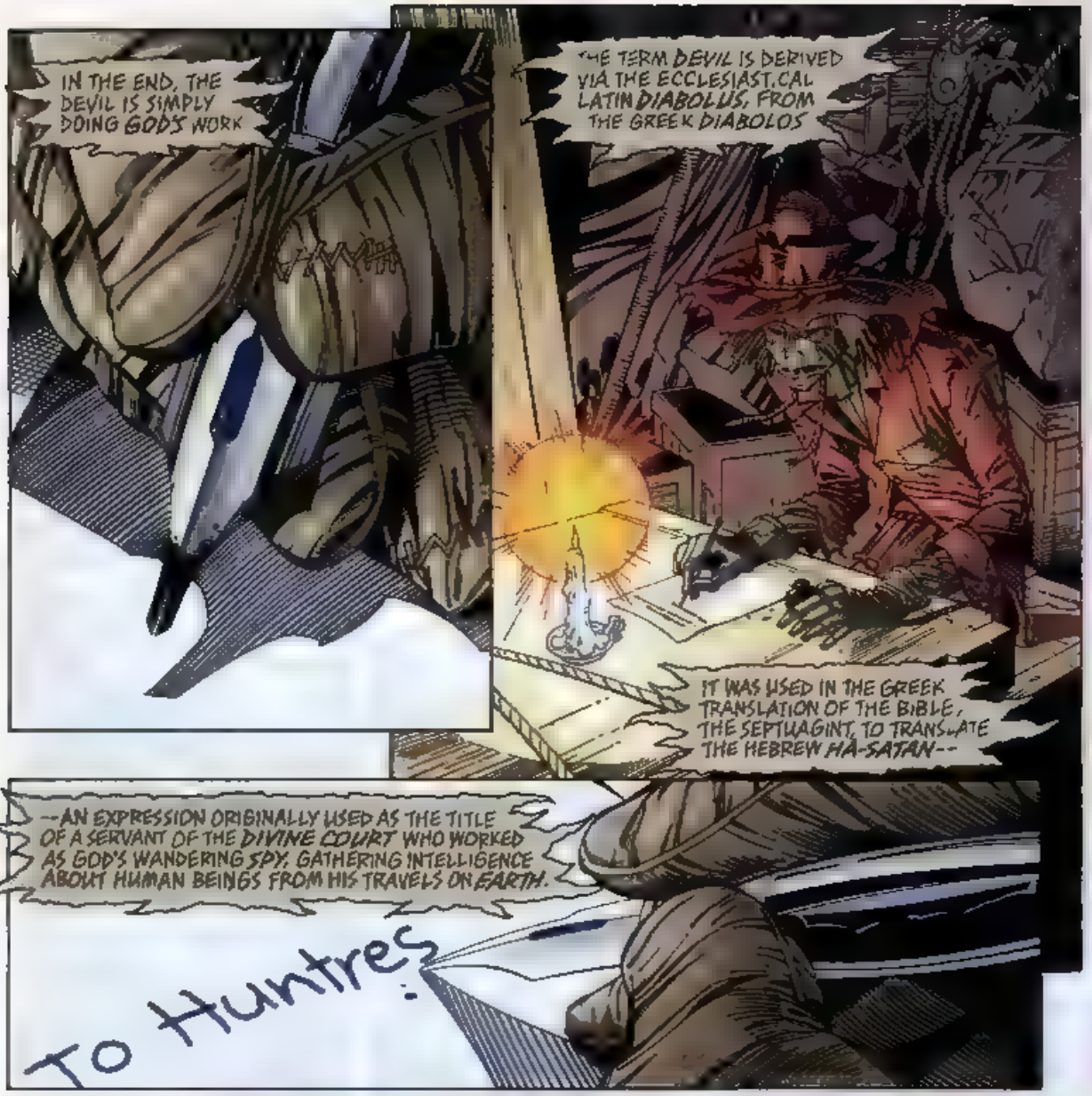
HOW IS HE?
CRITICAL... BUT HE HAS A CHANCE NOW
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE... ALL OF THIS
I HAVE TO GET BACK OUT THERE
I HAVE TO FIND THE MEN WHO SHOT THIS BOY. I HAVE TO--
BRUCE...
9

LESLIE, WHY DID YOU STAY?
GOOD LORD, BRUCE. YOU'RE ASKING ME?
THIRTY YEARS AGO, THIS WAS A *MORRIBLE* TOWN, NOT AS BAD AS IT IS *NOW*, NATURALLY...BUT CERTAINLY SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE THAN IT WAS BEFORE *BATMAN* ARRIVED.
BACK THEN, YOUR *FATHER* WAS MY VERY BEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD
ONE DAY, WHEN I WAS ASSISTING HIM WITH GOTHAM'S ENDLESS PARADE OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS, DRUG BABIES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS -
-- I ASKED HIM THE *SAME* QUESTION YOU JUST ASKED ME.
THOMAS JUST LOOKED AT ME WITH THOSE SAD, SERIOUS EYES AND SAID, QUITE MATTER-OF-FACTLY--
-- "THERE'S STILL WORK TO BE DONE."
HE MEANT IT, OF COURSE. DR WAYNE HAD NO INTENTION OF PACKING HIS BAGS UNTIL THERE WAS SIMPLY *NO ONE* ELSE HE COULD HELP
I LOVED YOUR FATHER VERY MUCH, BRUCE. I WISH I COULD SAY THAT THE ONLY REASON I STAYED WAS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO STILL NEED ME..., BUT PART OF ME STAYED JUST FOR *HIM*. JUST FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH A MAN LIKE THOMAS
AND YOU? WHY DID *YOU* STAY?
LESLIE, PART OF ME STAYED--
--JUST FOR *YOU*.

YOU CAN LEAVE OR YOU CAN JOIN US. I'M AFRAID THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'M GOING TO ASK.
IS THAT A THREAT, COMMISSIONER GORDON?
I'M SORRY, BUT AS WE'VE DISCUSSED BEFORE, YOUR LAWS DON'T APPLY TO THE REFUGEE CENTER
FINE, THEN I WON'T NEED A WARRANT TO SEARCH YOUR PLACE FOR WEAPONS.
WHAT?
I RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS TIP FROM SOMEONE INSIDE YOUR CENTER, FATHER. YOU DON'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF CONTROL OVER THAT TERRITORY.
HOW--?
I RESPECT YOUR PHILOSOPHY, BUT THE HARD, COLD FACT IS--
--YOU NEED OUR PROTECTION.
IF YOU TURN THE GUNS OVER TO MY MEN NOW, I GUARANTEE YOU--
NO!
SHOOT ME IN THE BACK IF YOU MUST, BUT THOSE WEAPONS REMAIN DORMANT.
I WILL NOT GIVE ANYONE THE MEANS TO KILL ANYONE ELSE!

KILL HIM
A BOY ALMOST DIED TONIGHT BECAUSE OF THE GUNS YOU PUT ON THE STREET, PENGUIN
BEFORE HE PASSED OUT FROM PAIN, HE SAID THAT YOU HAD MORE WEAPONS STASHED ELSEWHERE. YOU CAN TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE--
--OR I CAN MAKE YOU TELL ME
HOW? BY ARRESTING ME?
MY APOLOGIES, BATMAN. YOU MISTAKE GOTHAM FOR A TOWN THAT STILL HAS LAWS.
THE LAW ALWAYS APPLIES IN GOTHAM, PENGUIN.
PLEASE! EVEN TAXES AREN'T A SURE THING ANYMORE.
THOUGH I'M STILL REASONABLY CONFIDENT OF DEATH.
LAWS DEVELOP AS A SOCIETY EVOLVES. GOTHAM HAS REGRESSED. AND IN A REGRESSED SOCIETY, PERHAPS A FIXER'S SKEWED VIEW OF LAW IS JUST AS VALID AS A COSTUMED VIGILANTE'S
WHO'S TO SAY THAT I WON'T BE THE MODERN HAMMURABI WHOSE CODE OF LIFE SHALL LEAD US INTO THE FUTURE?
ME.
AHHHHH!
AHHHHH!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, PENGUIN
THIS IS A MINIATURE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE EMITTER. IN FIFTEEN SECONDS, IT WILL DESTROY EVERY LAST GENERATOR YOU HOARDED.
PERMANENTLY.
WHAT? NO!
TWELVE, ELEVEN, TEN...
WHAT DO YOU WANT? THE WEAPONS?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! I SWEAR! I--
SIX, FIVE, FOUR...
FINE, CURSE YOU! THEY'RE INSIDE THE REFUGEE CENTER!
THE..
...YOU PSYCHOPATH!
WAIT!
MY ELECTRICITY! HOW DO I TURN THAT THING--
--OFF?
BEEP BEEP BE
12:10
TEST
ARM STOP LIGHT
ROCKY, KARL.. GET UP
KRUNCH!
I WANT MY WEAPONS BACK.
13


IN THE END, THE DEVIL IS SIMPLY DOING GOD'S WORK
THE TERM DEVIL IS DERIVED VIA THE ECCLESIAST.CAL LATIN DIABOLUS, FROM THE GREEK DIABOLOS
IT WAS USED IN THE GREEK TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE, THE SEPTUAGINT, TO TRANSLATE THE HEBREW HA-SATAN--
--AN EXPRESSION ORIGINALLY USED AS THE TITLE OF A SERVANT OF THE DIVINE COURT WHO WORKED AS GOD'S WANDERING SPY, GATHERING INTELLIGENCE ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS FROM HIS TRAVELS ON EARTH.
To Huntress:

AFTER ALL, IF AN OMNIPOTENT GOD DIDN'T WANT HIM TO EXIST--
--WHY WOULD THE DEV... ENDURE?

I AM A SERVANT OF A MOST DIVINE COURT--
14

AND THERE'S STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE
HELL, THERE WAS A TIME WE COULD HAVE RETIRED FOR NABBING ALL THIS GARBAGE
GOTHAM MUSEUM
THIS IS STUPID! WE'VE FINALLY GOT SOME FIREPOWER AND ALL WE'RE DOING IS STAYIN' ON THE LAM FROM THE BAT AND THOSE TWO BROADS HE'S RUNN N' WITH
WELL, YOU'RE THE GUY WHO TOLD US TO SHOOT MIKEY, LEO...
HEY! I THINK I STOLE THIS ONCE. WHEN I RAN WITH TWO-FACE'S BOYS!
MIKEY WAS A TRAITOR. YOU WANNA GET SHOT, TOO, YOU JUST KEEP RUNNIN' YOUR MOUTH, MANNY
ANYWAYS, LISTEN THE GUNS WE GOT NOW BUY US SOME BREATHIN' ROOM, BUT WE'RE GONNA NEED MORE TO BE PLAYERS IN THIS TOWN, 'SPECIALLY SINCE WE SPLIT FROM BLACK MASK.
NOW, MIKEY SAID THERE WAS LOTS MORE AT THE CENTER. PROB IS, THERE'S A WHOLE CHURCHFUL OF PEOPLE THERE, TOO. WHAT WE GOTTA FIGURE IS, WOULD THEY USE ALL THAT AMMO ON US IF WE MADE A MOVE?
OH, I DON'T THINK YOU NEED WORRY ABOUT THAT...
BEFORE ONE CAN MASTER THE ART OF INDUCING FEAR -
BOO
YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I'M HERE TO ASSURE YOU GENTLEMEN THAT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE LAMBS OF THE CHURCH
-- ONE MUST LEARN TO ALLAY IT.
15

WELL?
AH!
DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU, FATHER... BAD HABIT I'M PICKING UP FROM A FRIEND
WHAT'S THE WORD FROM GORDON?
THERE'S BEEN A...A PROBLEM SOMEONE...SOMEONE MUST HAVE TOLD H.M...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MY GOD.
WHERE'S SCARECROW?
BEATS ME. HE COMES AND GOES AS HE PLEASES. YOUR RULES, NOT MINE.

MISS HUNTRESS? THIS... THIS IS FOR YOU
WELL, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF KNOWING WHAT WAS HERE!
WHOEVER SENT YOU THAT NOTE--
ENOUGH
HUNTRESS, CALM YOURSELF!
NO! I WANT TO SEE FOR MYSELF EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT--
--HERE?
17

IN YOUR CAREER, HOW MANY TIMES WOULD YOU SAY YOU'VE BLOWN OFF SOMEONE'S EARNEST REQUEST FOR YOU TO GET SOME SLEEP?
OH, FIVE OR SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND, I SUPPOSE I COULD CHECK THE LOG BOOKS WHEN MY SHIFT IS OVER
YOUR SHIFT ENDS? NEWS TO ME.
SO. WHAT IS IT TONIGHT, COMMISSIONER?
FATHER CHRIS AGAIN. A TIPSTER CLAIMS THAT HE'S HIDING WEAPONS INSIDE THE REFUGEE CENTER FOR PENGUIN IN EXCHANGE FOR SUPPLIES

"SUDDENLY, I ALMOST WISH WE STILL HAD THAT DAMN SIGNAL."

SO WHAT'S YOUR NEXT PLAY?
IF IT'S TRUE, WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE? SELFISHLY, I KNOW OUR BOYS NEED THOSE WEAPONS, BUT MORE IMPORTANT, THAT PRIEST HAS UNWITTINGLY TURNED HIS PLACE INTO A POWDER KEG.
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WANT THOSE FIREARMS, SARAH

"WE HAVE TO END THIS SITUATION BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE DOES."
WHY IS HE IN SUCH A HURRY?
WHO CARES? HE MAY GET TO THOSE GUNS BEFORE US...BUT HE AIN'T LEAVING WITH 'EM.

WELL, WELL, WELL. WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
SCARECROW! WHY DID YOU TELL THESE PEOPLE?!
DON'T TRY TO DISPLACE THE BLAME, FATHER!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE WEAPONS HERE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT WAS A TERRIBLE DECISION, BUT I HAD NO CHOICE!
FATHER, PLEASE BELIEVE ME!
I'M NOT QUESTIONING WHAT YOU DID, CHRIS, I'M QUESTIONING WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO.
IT'S LETHAL JUST HOLDING ON TO THOSE THINGS. WE MUST DUMP THEM IN THE HARBOR AS SOON AS--
EVERYBODY GET DOWN!
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!

ALL WE WANT IS THE REST OF THE WEAPONS! LET US INSIDE AND WE PROMISE THAT NOBODY'LL GET HURT!
TOO BAD! WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING SO CHARITABLE, YOU MURDERERS!
YOU SET ONE FOOT INSIDE THIS BUILDING AND I SWEAR YOU WON'T COME OUT ALIVE!
HUNTRESS, NO! DON'T PROVOKE THEM!
YOU'RE DONE CALLING THE SHOTS HERE, FATHER CHRIS!
HOW MANY MORE OF THESE PEOPLE WILL YOU LET END UP LIKE MIKEY?
GOD HELP US--
20

--THEY'LL KILL US ALL IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING!
WHAT DO WE DO? WHAT DO WE-- OH, BUT WAIT! WE HAVE THE SAME WEAPONS THEY DO!
FIND THE COURAGE TO USE THEM! WE MUST DEFEND OURSELVES!
NO!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! PUT THOSE AWAY BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS KILLED! YOU HAVE TO STAY CALM!
I STARTED THIS--
--AND NOW I HAVE TO END IT...

PLEASE! LET'S FIND A WAY TO END THIS PEACEFULLY!
THE TRAGEDY OF LIFE IN HELL IS THAT EVERY TERRIBLE OCCURRENCE IS COMPLETELY PREDICTABLE--
- YET ALTOGETHER UNAVOIDABLE.
WELL?
T'S A TRAP
K L H M
THIS UNENDING SUFFERING OFTEN DRIVES HELL'S DENIZENS TO BLAME ONE ANOTHER FOR THE ETERNAL PAIN AND MADLY WAGE BATTLE AGAINST EACH OTHER
STOP! PLEASE! YOU'LL KILL FATHER CHRIS IF YOU START SHOOTING!
NO! DEFEND YOUR FRIEND! USE WHAT GOD HAS DELIVERED UNTO YOU! LISTEN TO YOUR HEARTS!
BUT WHEN HELL GOES TO WAR WITH ITSELF--
--ONLY THE DEVIL COMES OUT A WINNER
TO BE CONTINUED...

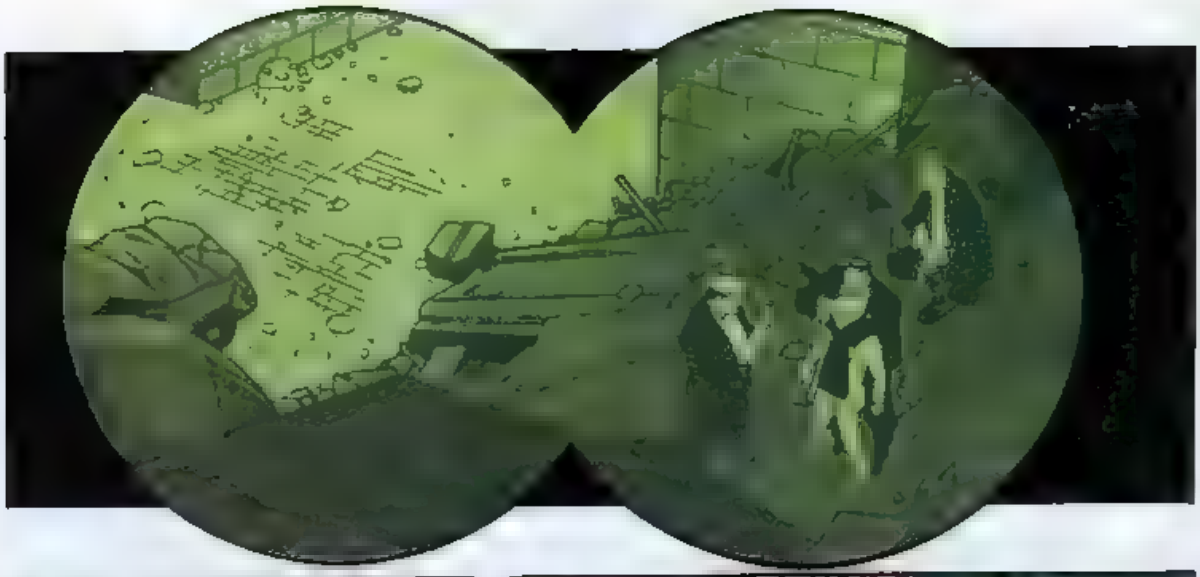
...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called NO MAN'S LAND
FOR SOME, IT IS ABSOLUTE LONELINESS.
INDEED, HELL IS A MOST SUBJECTIVE LAND
SO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE MULTITUDES OF CONDEMNED WERE FORCED TO SHARE JUST ONE PERSON'S PERSONAL EDITION OF DAMNATION -
NO! STOP!
FOR SARTRE, IT WAS OTHER PEOPLE
--A HOPELESS ABYSS THAT WOULD SERVE AS THE FINAL REPOSITORY FOR ALL OF MANKIND'S GREATEST FEARS?
CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE?
FOR MOST, THIS WOULD SURELY BE A DOMAIN OF UNENDING TORMENT. BUT FOR SOME--

--IT WOULD BE PARADISE
ARK PROJECT REFUGEE CENTER
PLEASE! LET'S WORK THIS OUT PEACEFU--
BLAM!

FATHER CHRIS!
NO BLOOD
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM!
UGH!
4

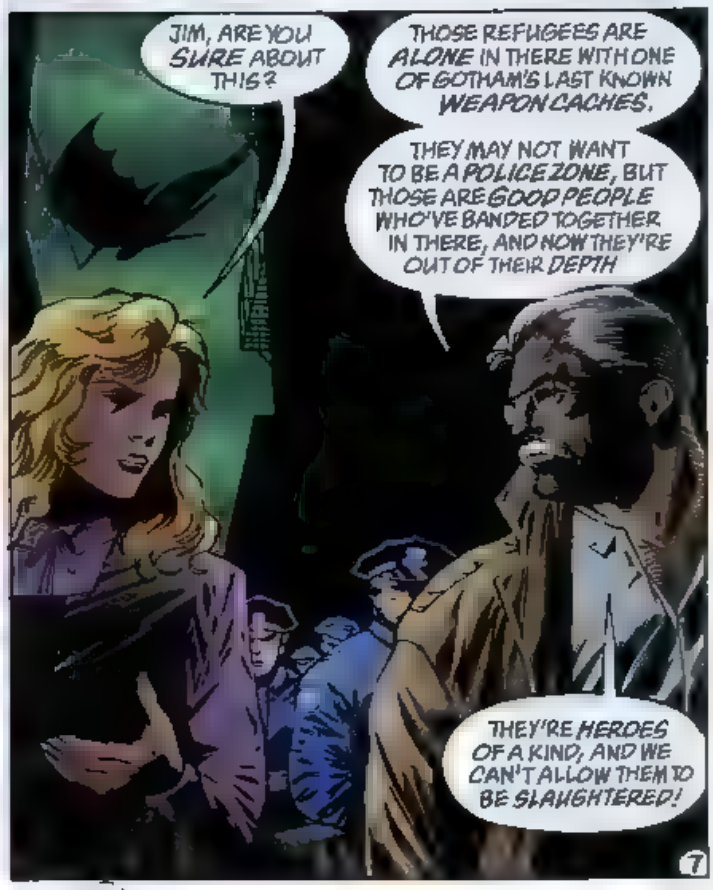
WE REPRESENT THE PENGUIN
AND HE WANTS HIS GUNS BACK
EVERYONE! GET BACK INSIDE THE CHURCH!
NOW!
NOT SO FAST, PADRE
WE'LL HOLD ONTO YOUR FRIEND HERE UNTIL YOU NICE PEOPLE DECIDE TO GIVE YOUR WEAPONS TO US!
PUT THE GUNS DOWN! TAKE NO ACTION! VIOLENCE IS OUR TRUE ENEMY!
HE'S WRONG! THINK OF HOW HE'S BETRAYED YOU! HE HAS GIVEN YOU NOTHING TO BELIEVE IN--SAVE THE POWER OF VIOLENCE!
DON'T JUST SIT THERE! ATTACK!
5

DON'T LISTEN TO SCARECROW! WE CAN'T AFFORD A WAR! SOME OF YOU HAVE SEEN IN YOUR OWN HOMELANDS WHAT HORRORS COME FROM ARMED CONFLICT!
YOU KNOW THE STORM THAT FIRST SHOT WILL UNLEASH!
WHAT WE KNOW IS THAT IF WE JUST SIT HERE, MORE WILL COME! THERE'S NO LAW IN THIS LAND! THEY'LL SLAUGHTER US!
WE'RE AFRAID!
OF COURSE YOU ARE. BUT
WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE AND DIE!
IT'S THEM OR US!
NO! LISTEN TO ME!
GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES TO SAVE FATHER CHRIS AND DEFUSE THIS. JUST FIVE!
IF I CAN'T--
--THEN DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO TO SURVIVE.
OH, THEY WILL
I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT.



THE CENTER IS HOT, BUT I WANT EVERYONE ON SAFETIES. NO COWBOYS! AM I UNDERSTOOD?

DAMN.


JIM, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
THOSE REFUGEES ARE ALONE IN THERE WITH ONE OF GOTHAM'S LAST KNOWN WEAPON CACHES.
THEY MAY NOT WANT TO BE A POLICE ZONE, BUT THOSE ARE GOOD PEOPLE WHO'VE BANDED TOGETHER IN THERE, AND NOW THEY'RE OUT OF THEIR DEPTH
THEY'RE HEROES OF A KIND, AND WE CAN'T ALLOW THEM TO BE SLAUGHTERED!
7

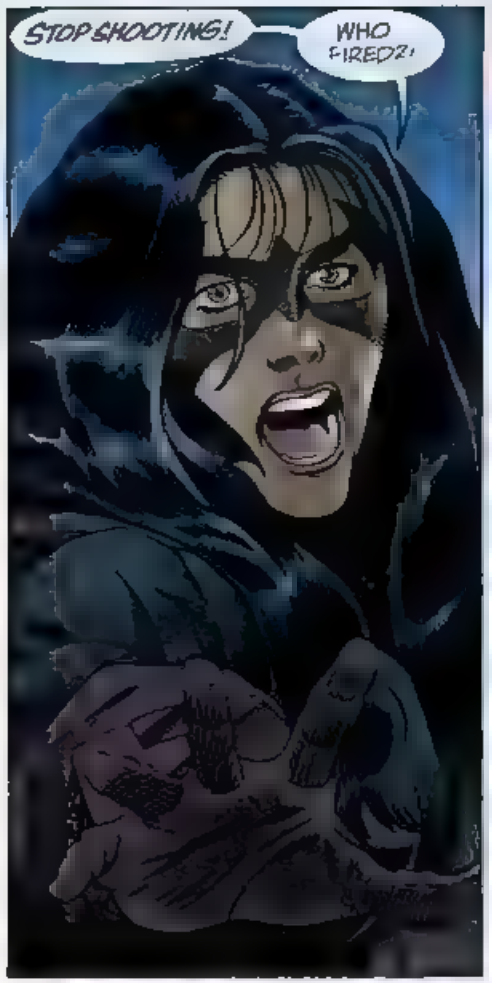
IF YOU FOLKS DON'T REACH A MOTHERLOVIN' DECISION SOON, I SWEAR YOU'RE GONNA GET YOUR PRIEST BACK A LOT "HOLIER" THAN HE STARTED!
HEH GOOD ONE, ROCKY
STOP AND THINK! WHAT GOOD COULD POSSIBLY COME FROM THIS? PLEASE! CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS!
WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE AND DO NOTHING!
FATHER CHRIS IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO THIS MISSION THAN I PERHAPS WE COULD PERSUADE THEM TO TAKE ME IN FATHER CHRIS'S PLACE?
NONSENSE, FATHER PAPALEO! THEY'LL KILL YOU BOTH! WE MUST ACT DECISIVELY--
AAAAAH!
" WITH THE VENGEANCE OF GOD HIMSELF!"
8

FATHER, RUN! I'LL HANDLE THESE TWO! YOU SHUT DOWN SCARECROW!
THAT'S FATHER CHRIS
DON'T SHOOT UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!
BAD TO WORSE
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, HOSTAGE BOY. YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE...
LISTEN TO ME! WHY WOULD FATHER CHRIS HAVE GONE TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO ARM US HAD HE WANTED US TO STAND BY, WEAK AND DEFENSELESS--
--WHILE EVERYTHING STANDING BETWEEN US AND CERTAIN DOOM WAS PULLED FROM OUR HANDS?
9

FIGURE I WOULDN'T SHOOT A PRIEST?
WELL, I FIGURE IT THIS WAY: I'M ALREADY IN HELL, RIGHT? MIGHT AS WELL GET COMFORTABLE.

BLAM!
HEY! WHERE--?!

THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT!


STOP SHOOTING!
WHO FIRED?!

WHO--?
OH NO
OH, GOD, NO.
SHOOT ME IN THE BACK, WILLYA? YOU DIRTY, STINKING
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM

DEAR LORD... IT WILL BE A MASSACRE...
AW, SWELL! YOU DIDN'T KILL ONE OF THOSE FALSE FACERS ALL THE WAY, JC!
I DON'T
LISTEN UP!
YOU SET ONE FOOT NEAR THAT CHURCH, I'LL EXECUTE YOU AND THAT PRIEST! THOSE GUNS BELONG TO ME, UNDERSTAND? ME!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! WE OUTNUMBER THOSE DEMONS TEN TO ONE! WE MUST STRIKE NOW!
NO! WE WAIT FOR HUNTRESS' WORD BEFORE WE--
YOU TWO IDIOTS MAY HAVE ME OUTMANNED, BUT I'LL BET DOLLARS TO DUMPLINGS THAT I GOT MORE AMMO THAN YOU NOW! GO AHEAD AND TRY TO--
AW, HELL

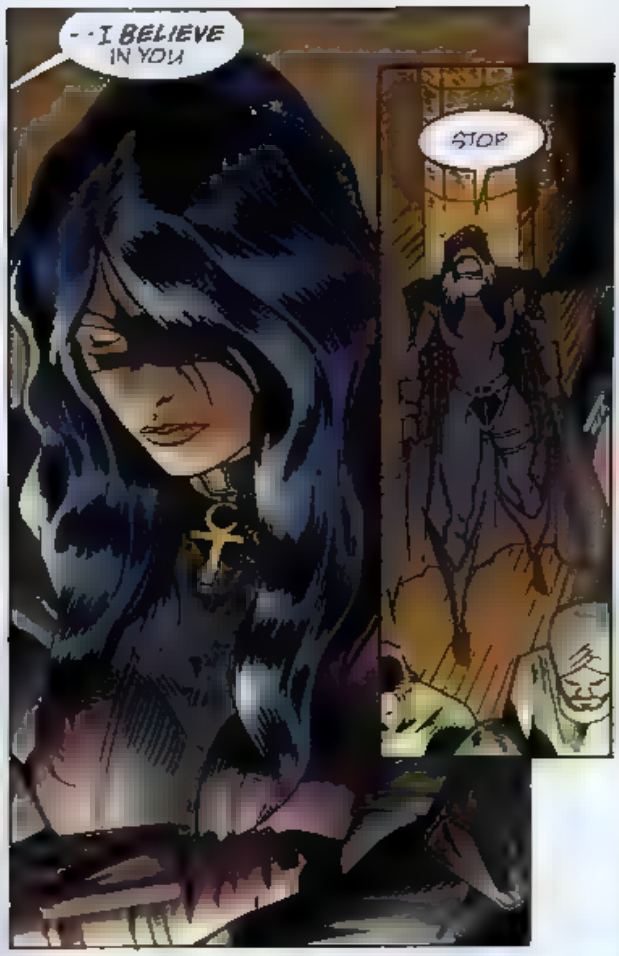
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU COWARDS GOING TO WAIT? DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE ALL ABANDONED YOUR FAITH?!
YOU FEAR YOUR GOD WILL NOT PROTECT YOU IN THIS HOLY SIEGE? YOU FEAR HE WILL REJECT YOU NOW, IN THIS TIME OF NEED?
HE WON'T!
WAIT, SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!
OKAY, MORONS! I COME IN PEACE AND ALL THAT I WANNA... MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU
I'LL TRADE YOU MY THREE GUNS FOR YOUR PRIEST YEAH?
ALLOW ME
BLAM!
NOW, AS FOR YOU AND THE PADRE, BATLADY--
IS THIS CAT FOR REAL?
WHY WOULD WE WANNA TRADE HIM ANYTHING WHEN WE COULD JUST SHOOT HIM?
NO! PLEASE!
12

I'M GONNA--
WHERE'D THEY GO?
CHRIS!
YOU DID IT! YOU SAVED HIM!
IT'S A SIGN FROM THE LORD ON HIGH! HE WILL HELP PROTECT WHAT IS OURS!
STRIKE NOW! FORCE THEM BACK! LET THEM FEEL THE VENGEANCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS!
CREEAK!
WHO THE ?
DON'T SHOOT!
I AIN'T ARMED!
C'MON, ROCK HELP YOURSELF TO HIS HARDWARE.
13

SETTLE DOWN, SISTER! I BEEN ROUGHED UP ENOUGH ALREADY.
THE TATTOO--? YOU'RE ONE OF THE FALSE FACERS!
NAME'S JEO HE SAID I COULD COME HERE FOR SHELTER IF I--
WHO SAID?
AH JC--?
IF YOU'RE THE GUY WHO GOT SHOT, WHO'S OUT--
AH
FINALLY...
IT'S THE BAT! THE B--!
UGN!
ALL RIGHT! WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM ALONE IN THERE ANY LONGER!
LET'S MOVE IT IN!

TAKE A MESSAGE TO THE PENGUIN
TELL HIM THIS BLOCK IS OFF LIMITS, PERMANENTLY
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
SSSSSS
COUGH COUGH
DAMN HIM!
COMMISSIONER SHOULD WE TRY TO BREAK THROUGH?
NO. LET IT GO, PETIT.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE REFUGEES AREN'T SO ALONE IN THERE AFTER ALL
AND ALTHOUGH I DON'T CURRENTLY TRUST THEIR SAVIOR--
"--I SUPPOSE I CAN TRUST THE INTEGRITY OF THEIR LEADER."
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LEO?

I MEAN, THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT!
SCARECROW WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD US TO DO IT! HE SAID YOU PEOPLE WOULD LIE DOWN LIKE SHEEP FOR US! HE MUST HAVE TIPPED PENGUIN'S GUYS, TOO!
WHAT GIVES, "ZEAK"?
THIS IS THE MAN WHO KILLED OUR DEAR FRIEND MIKEY! YOU CAN'T BELIEVE HIM!
HE'S THE ONE BEHIND ALL THIS BLOODSHED!
—BETRAYED OUR TRUST!--
-TEACH HIM A LESSON!
FOR MIKEY
FASCINATING
I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT THEIR FEAR AND HOPELESSNESS WOULD DRIVE THEM TO THIS. IT IS A MORE HIDEOUS REACTION THAN I EVER DARED DREAM.
NOW I AM TO BECOME A MARTYR TO MY OWN SOLITARY CAUSE
HOW POSITIVELY GLORIOUS...!
DEAR GOD! THEY'LL MURDER HIM! HUNTRESS, YOU HAVE TO STOP THEM!
HUNTRESS?!
COULDN'T EVEN IF I WANTED TO.
REVENGE IS HUMAN NATURE, AFTER ALL
IT IS ALSO HUMAN NATURE TO BEND TO THE FORCE OF A SUPERIOR WILL.
PLEASE! I'VE SEEN YOU DO THINGS I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE, HUNTRESS
I KNOW YOU CAN HELP--
16


--I BELIEVE IN YOU
STOP

STOP!
THIS IS WHAT HE WANTS FROM YOU, THIS IS HOW HE WINS!

LISTEN, WE DO KNOW FEAR. WE FEARED FOR OUR FRIEND MIKEY, FOR OURSELVES, FOR FATHER CHRIS
BUT MIKEY'S RECOVERING NOW, WE'RE SAFE, AND FATHER CHRIS IS SAFELY HERE WITH US
THERE'S GREAT POWER IN OUR FEAR! IT CAN BE USED TO FUEL HATRED AND VICIOUSNESS, YES--
--BUT IT CAN ALSO REMIND US HOW MUCH WE LOVE THOSE THINGS WE FEAR TO BE THREATENED.

LOOK AT HIM. HE'S SUCH A SMALL MAN. SO AFRAID
LET US THANK HIM FOR REMINDING US HOW MUCH WE STILL HAVE TO LOSE.
WHAT ARE YOU--?
17

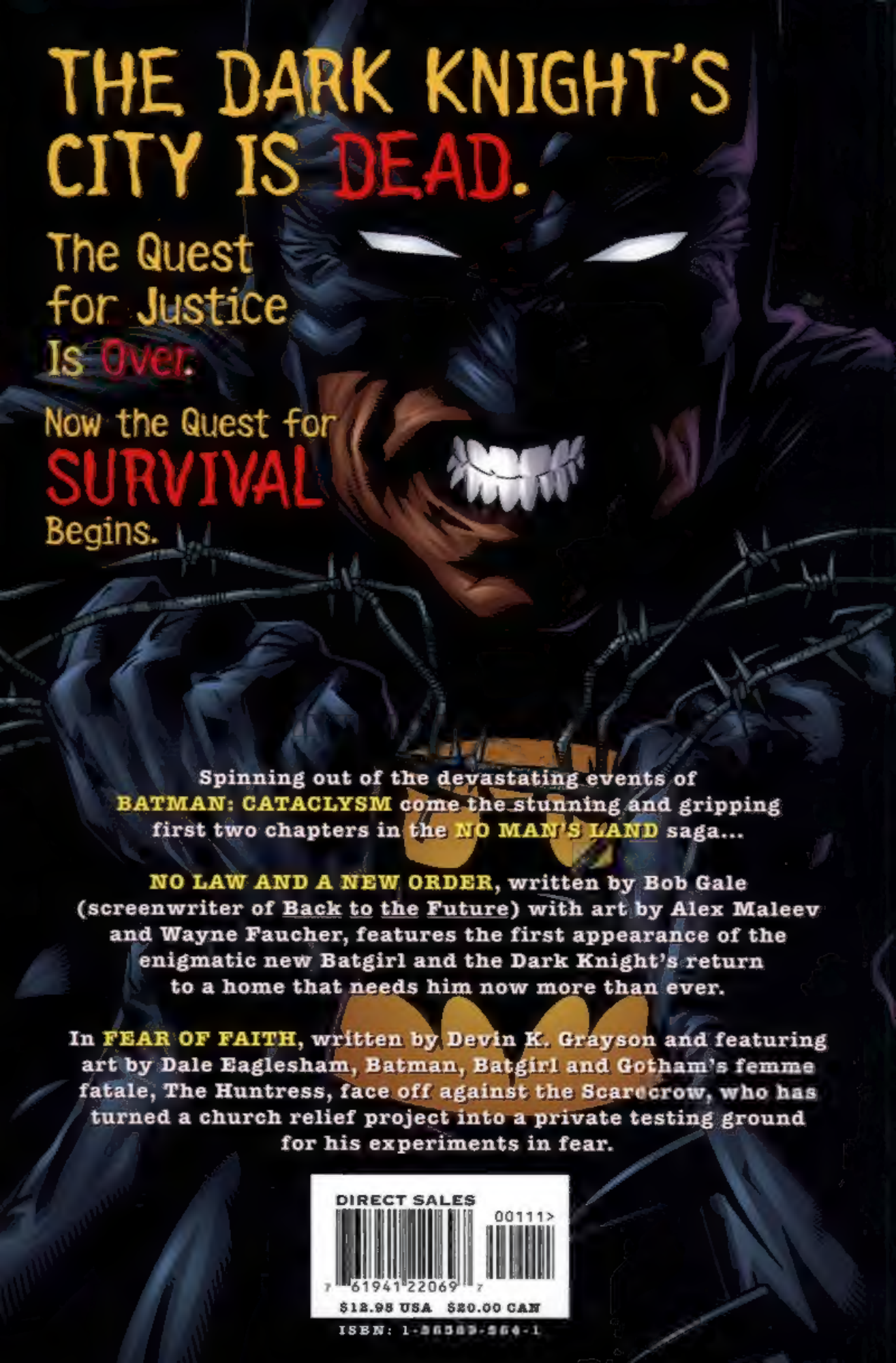
GOD WILL FORGIVE YOU, SON
DON'T BE AFRAID ANYMORE. WE'LL STAND BY YOU.
MAY ALLAH PROTECT YOU, MY FRIEND!
JESUS LOVES YOU! LET HIM SAVE YOUR SOUL!
OM MANI PADME HUM! LET US INVOKE AVALOKITESHVARA, BODHISATTVA OF COMPASSION!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! GET AWAY FROM ME! STOP THAT!
STOP!
PAPA LEGBA OUVRI [redacted]-A POU MWEN! POU MWEN PASE!
WE FORGIVE YOU COME SIT AND TALK WITH US
LET US PRAY TO VISHNU TO PRESERVE AND SUSTAIN YOU!
EXCUSE ME FOR JUST A MOMENT, FATHER CHRIS..
..ONE LAST SOUL NEEDS ATTENDING TO
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, HUNTRESS. YOU'VE DONE A WONDERFUL THING HERE TODAY
JUST.. TEACHING.
I...
..HAVEN'T HAD THE OPPORTUNITY IN AWHILE
MY CHILD, FOR YOUR ENTIRE LIFE, YOU'VE BEEN SURROUNDED BY THE VERY WORST HUMANITY HAS TO OFFER. TONIGHT, YOU ENCOURAGED SOME OF THE BEST.
I DID WHAT I COULD, FATHER PAPALEO. I WISH I COULD HAVE DONE MORE
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED MY KIND OF HELP AROUND HERE ANYMORE
HOW WRONG YOU ARE, HELENA. HOW WRONG YOU ARE...

REPEAT THAT IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE?
I SAID, THOSE LUNATICS OVER AT THAT REFUGEE PLACE TOOK YOUR GUNS AND--
YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS, FATHER?
THESE WEAPONS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE IN NO MAN'S LAND GOTHAM. THEY COULD MEAN FOOD, OR MEDICINE--
--BUT THEY WOULD ALSO LEAD TO KILLING!
IF WE TRADE THESE - FOR ANYTHING, WITH ANYONE-- THEY COULD BE USED TO TAKE LIVES
I COULD NEVER MAKE PEACE WITH THAT. BUT I WON'T ACT ON BEHALF OF US ALL WITHOUT YOUR BLESSINGS AND YOUR TRUST.
WE'RE WITH YOU, FATHER CHRIS!
DO IT!
THANK YOU FOR LET TING ME MAKE THIS RIGHT
KER-SPLOOSH!
--YOU WANT I SHOULD ICE THIS PRIEST GUY, MR COBBLEPOT?
NO, NO. NO NEED
DESPITE HIS UN-BLEMISHED MORALITY, FATHER CHRIS IS JUST A MAN. THIS CITY WILL SEE TO HIM...
19

"...IN THE END, GOTHAM HERSELF RISES DOWN HER PATRIOTS."
I'M NOT AFRAID...
HOW WERE THEY NOT AFRAID? WERE THEY M-MOCKING ME?
LOOK AT THIS PLACE! LOOK!
DON'T YOU SEE?
WE'RE IN HELL!
HELL! HELL! HELL--
--HELP!
SOMEBODY HELP ME!!
NO. NO. NO CHANGE IN THEM. NO LAPSE OF FAITH.
NO TEST GROUP, NO ABSOLUTE. NO SENSE IN IT!
NO CHEMICALS. NO MASK. JUST--
--FIRE
NO! SCARECROW!
NO... SCARECROW?
NOOOOOOOOO!
20

WHERE ARE WE?
CAN I TAKE THIS OFF NOW?
I'LL TAKE SILENCE AS CONSENT.
WHERE
THE CAVE?
I'M ACTUALLY IN
WAIT
THIS ISN'T YOUR MAIN HEAD-QUARTERS, IS IT?
IT'S A CAVE
YOU'VE GOT MORE THAN ONE NOW?
THESE DAYS

"...YOU HAVE TO BE FLEXIBLE."
ARKHAM ASYLUM
The End



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